

Brooklyn Academy of Music

Alan H. Fishman,
Chairman of the Board

William I. Campbell,
Vice Chairman of the Board

Adam E. Max,
Vice Chairman of the Board

Katy Clark,
President

Joseph V. Melillo,
Executive Producer

Nufonia Must Fall

BAM Harvey Theater

Sep 17—19 at 7:30pm; Sep 20 at 3pm

Running time: one hour, no intermission

Kid Koala

The Afiara Quartet

Directed by K.K. Barrett

Created by **Eric San (Kid Koala)**

Set design by **Benjamin Gerlis**

Puppet design by **Clea Minaker, Patrick Martel,**

Félix Boisvert, Karina Bleau

Director of photography **AJ Korkidakis**

Music by **Kid Koala**

Musical direction and string arrangements by

Vid Cousins

Produced by **Ryhna Thompson**

Season Sponsor:

**Bloomberg
Philanthropies**

Viacom is the BAM 2015 Music Sponsor.

*Leadership support for music at BAM provided by
Frances Bermanzohn & Alan Roseman.*

Nufonia Must Fall

One of my fondest memories from childhood was watching Charlie Chaplin films. I remember my whole family, kids, parents AND grandparents, huddled around the screen, smiling and laughing along as the story unfolded. Since those days, something about the silent film format has always struck a chord with me. When I was writing *Nufonia Must Fall*, I always imagined the book being a kind of paperback silent movie.

I am so thrilled to be working with director K.K. Barrett, who has had a hand in creating some of my favorite movies and many of the most captivating cinematic visuals in the past 15 years. It has been an amazing experience to see the story literally come to life through this amazing team of set designers, puppeteers, and performers. Don't be fooled by its heavy sounding title, *Nufonia Must Fall* is just a good old fashioned love story and I hope that audiences will have as much fun watching the show as we have had putting it together!

—*Kid Koala*

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION CREDITS

Puppeteers **Karina Bleau, Félix Boisvert, Clea Minaker**

Musicians **Kid Koala, The Afiara Quartet—Valerie Li**, violin; **Timothy Kantor**, violin;
Eric Wong, viola; **Adrian Fung**, cello (substituting on cello: Rachel Desoer)

Camera operator **AJ Korkidakis**

Sound engineer **Vid Cousins**

Video editor **Ben Knight**

Technical director & stage manager **Olivier Gaudet-Savard**

Tour manager **Patrick Hamou**

Additional set designer **Corinne Merrell**

Assistant set designers **Jeremy Gordoneer, Marie-Pier Fortier**

Modelmakers **Maude-Emelie Bourque, Dan Buller, Clara Gonzalez, Kyle Purves**

Puppet technical designer **Patrick Martel**

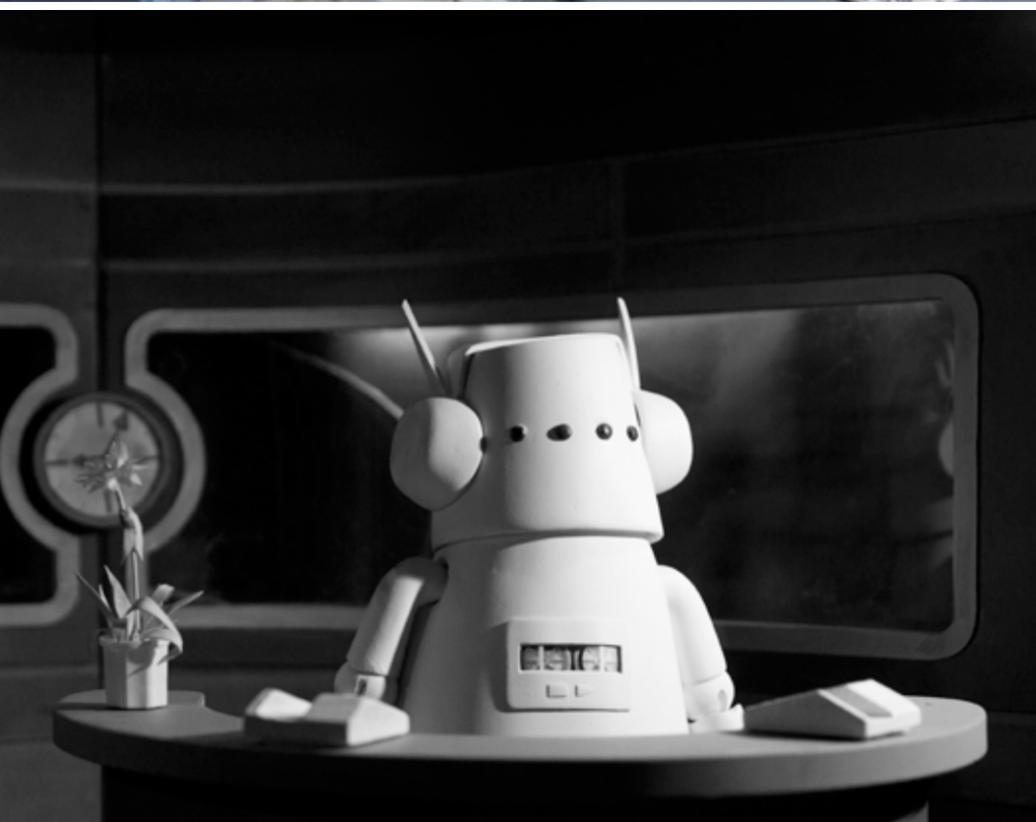
Assistant puppet builders **Isabelle Chrétien, Jesse Orr, Christine Plouffe, Veronique Poirier**

Additional production **Patricia Boushel, Colin Mackenzie, Alexandre Gagnon**

Adapted for the stage from Kid Koala's book and soundtrack *Nufonia Must Fall*.

Produced by Nufonia Live Inc.

Co-commissioned by BAM, Luminato Festival, Adelaide Festival, The Banff Centre, Internationales Sommerfestival Hamburg, Noorderzon Performing Arts Festival Groningen, and Roundhouse UK.



KID KOALA (creator)

Kid Koala is a world-renowned scratch DJ, music producer, and award-winning graphic novelist. He has released four solo albums on Ninja Tune, most recently *12 Bit Blues*. He has released two graphic novels: *Nufonia Must Fall* and *Space Cadet*. He has also been involved in collaborations such as Gorillaz, Deltron 3030, and the Slew. Kid Koala has toured with the likes of Radiohead, Beastie Boys, Arcade Fire, Money Mark, A Tribe Called Quest, Mike Patton, DJ Shadow, and Preservation Hall Jazz Band. He has contributed to scores for the films *Shaun of the Dead*, *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*, *Looper*, and *The Great Gatsby*. He has composed music for the National Film Board of Canada, Cartoon Network, *Sesame Street*, and Adult Swim. He has also been commissioned to create music for runway shows for Belgian fashion designer Dries Van Noten. Kid Koala's unforgettable live shows range from silly touring turntable carnivals like *Short Attention Span Theater* (featuring turntable bingo) and *Vinyl Vaudeville* (including puppets and dancers) to quiet-time events like *Music to Draw to*, his *Space Cadet Headphone Experience*, and most recently, *Nufonia Must Fall* live. He lives in Montreal with his wife and two daughters.

K.K. BARRETT (director)

K.K. Barrett is a production designer known for his work on films by highly individual directors. Born in Omaha, NB, he began his creative path as a painter, sculptor, and musician. Playing "pleasurable avant noise" music took him to Los Angeles in 1976 and he quickly became the drummer and visualist for the Screemers, a synth, piano, vocals, and drums experiment known for wildly popular live shows on both coasts. His first video set design work won MTV awards—"Tonight Tonight" with the Smashing Pumpkins and "New Pollution" with Beck. These adventures became serious with *Being John Malkovich*, Spike Jones' feature film debut. He has been the production designer on all of Jones' films, including *Where the Wild Things Are*, and the recent Oscar-nominated design for *Her*. His other design/director collaborations have been equally unique—*Lost in Translation* and *Marie Antoinette* with Sofia Coppola, *Human Nature* with Michel Gondry, and *I Heart Huckabees* with David O. Russell. In 2011 Barrett teamed with Karen O to create *Stop the Virgens*, a "psycho opera," which combined dance, live music, projection, sets, and sound design. It sold out two runs at St. Ann's Warehouse in New York and in 2012 at the Sydney Opera House. This led to collaborating with like-minded artist Kid Koala on *Nufonia Must Fall*, Koala's graphic novel, as live theater.

BENJAMIN GERLIS (set design)

Benjamin Gerlis is a set designer for stage and screen. He has worked at many of the major UK producing houses, including the National Theatre, English National Opera, Royal Opera, Young Vic, and Royal Court. Projects have taken him to New York (Metropolitan Opera, American Ballet Theatre, Broadway), Montreal (Cirque du Soleil, Centaur Theatre, Segal Centre), and the Bregezz Opera Festival in Austria. He works extensively in animation, regularly collaborating with director Mikey Please on award-winning short films, music videos, and commercials. This year he co-founded Stripeland, a design collective working across stage, screen, and live events. stripeland.co.uk

CLEA MINAKER (puppet design)

Clea Minaker, a performer, designer, and director, brings the language of contemporary puppetry to creations and collaborations in theater, opera, dance, video, film, live music, installation, and community arts. Trained at the International Institute of Puppetry Arts (2002—05) in Charleville-Mézières, France, her poetic original creations, situating clandestine manipulation within evolving scenic spaces, striving to produce a total image. Minaker was awarded the 2009 Siminovitch Protégé Prize for Theatre Design by Canadian puppeteer Ronnie Burkett. In 2007—08 Minaker created and performed a shadow puppetry stage show for Feist, *The Reminder Tour*, touring internationally. She has created carte blanche performances with Leslie Feist at the Montreal contemporary puppetry festival, Casteliers, with Candas Bas at IF! Istanbul Independent Film Festival, at the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, and most recently at Hajra Waheed at Art Dubai. In 2013 she created shadow puppetry for

Salomé, a Canadian Opera Company production directed by Atom Egoyan, as well as for *Tales of Odessa*, *A So-Called Musical*, at Montreal's Segal Centre. In 2014 she performed and designed for the Luminato premiere of *Nufonia Must Fall*. Minaker's first full-length solo performance, *The Book of Thel*, based on the poem by William Blake, was presented in 2013 at Festival Artdanthé at Theatre Lachpelle in Montreal. Most recently she directed *The Saint Plays* by Erik Ehn as artist in residence at Concordia University.

PATRICK MARTEL (puppet design and puppet technical design)

Patrick Martel has been working as a puppeteer and a puppet and set designer for more than 20 years. His work was seen in many plays, including *À nous deux!*, with Théâtre de l'Avant-Pays, for which he was awarded a commendation recognizing excellence in puppet design around the world by the Arlyn Award Society. He collaborated with Atlanta's Center for Puppetry Arts, designing the sets, costumes, and puppets for the production *Don Quixote*. He created puppets for a number of television programs (*1, 2, 3... Géant!*), as well as for variety shows that toured the world. In 2000, he started teaching classes at Université du Québec à Montréal. In 2012 and 2013, he was head of the postgraduate diploma in puppetry at the same institution. He recently designed and directed a puppet performance for a multimedia installation created by Victor Pilon and Michel Lemieux, due to open in 2017 for Montreal's 375th anniversary. He is now designing the puppets for a large-scale touring show for Cirque du Soleil.





FÉLIX BOISVERT (puppet design)

Félix Boisvert studied composition at the Conservatoire de Musique de Montréal, where he received his master's degree in 2005. He has worked as a multidisciplinary artist (puppet theater, music, technological arts, and dance) for the following productions: *Concerto au sol* (2014), *Lune et l'autre* (2009), *Pas à pas* (2006), and *Manu danse* (2005). He distinguishes himself alternately as a puppeteer, teacher, musician, and sound artist. His process stems from a desire to express music in artistic forms that defy their nature as sound. For the past few years, he has found fertile ground for this exploration within puppet theater. He also teaches music, mainly the Fonofone, an instrument he helped develop, and with which he tours schools across the province of Quebec. He has taught more than 1000 workshops to enthusiasts of all ages. He collaborates with many artists and companies hailing from the varied disciplines of circus arts, puppet theater, film, and dance, namely Kid Koala (*Nufonia Must Fall*), Anthony Venisse (*Le concierge*), Les minutes complètement cirque (*Babel*), Les sept doigts de la main (*Patinoire*), Nicolas Cantin, Sandy Silva (the percussive dance pieces *Do I Know You* and *App #21*), Mathieu Roy (the *Territories* exhibition at the Musée de la civilisation de Québec), Antonin Monmart (*Un ange passe*), Karina Bleau (*Sacré sucre* and *Haïku du dernier souffle*), and Guillaume Saladin (*Artcirq*). He co-directs a newly-built creative and experimentation space for the in-depth study of multidisciplinary practices.

KARINA BLEAU (puppet design)

Since 2001, Karina Bleau has melded sculpture, film, and puppeteering, resulting in visual theater which explores matter, light, and the body in motion. She examines our relationship with the world through underlying themes of life, death, and transmittance, using art to shed light on the connections between humans and their inhabited spaces. She co-directs an interdisciplinary research space which promotes the in-depth study of marginal artistic practices, and is dedicated to teaching her art to young people. Her work has been shown at home and internationally: *Petit nid* (2009), *Atlantis* (2010), *Haïku du dernier souffle* (2011), *Jean-Claude est un homme-Maison* (2012), *Haïku en trois temps* (2012), and *Grain dans' tête* (2014). Her next show, *Sacré sucre*, will premiere in 2016 at the Théâtre les Écuries in Montreal. She collaborates with artists whose work resists disciplinary boundaries, such as the Inuit circus artist Guillaume Saladin (*Artcirq*), the circus artists Karine Delzors (France/Switzerland) and Jessica Arpin (Switzerland/Quebec), the electroacoustic artist Félix Boisvert, the puppeteer Justine Macadou (France/Quebec), Théâtre Incliné (Fils Blanc), and the geopoet Jean Morrisset. She has been recognized for her innovations in theater, earning a diploma in contemporary puppeteering and a master's degree in theater at the Université du Québec in Montreal, and received the 2004 international Arlyne award for puppet design.

AJ KORKIDAKIS (director of photography)

AJ Korkidakis is a Montreal-based digital media artist who jumps between filmmaking, photography, animation, design, and whatever medium is required. This multi-tasking style keeps his work fresh and gives him access to a wide range of techniques with which to create rich visual worlds; he prefers to dream up images first, and then figure out how to create them. His films have played festivals internationally, including TIFF and Just for Laughs, have won him two awards at the Youngcuts Film Festival, and have been broadcast across North America. He is a frequent collaborator with many noted Montreal musicians on various video and animation projects. His design work has ranged from traditional poster design to creating organizations' entire visual identities. He illustrated the December 2012 cover of *New Internationalist* magazine. More recently, he has begun to create work with a focus on interaction, be it through physical installations or digital applications. He explores the blurring lines between traditional and new media, and is in his element when working in multi-disciplinary environments that challenge him to learn new skills. As such, *Nufonia Must Fall* is a perfect home for him.

VID COUSINS (musical direction)

Vid Cousins has had the privilege of composing, arranging, producing, and recording for some astounding ensembles over the years, notably Afiara Quartet (Young Canadians Musicians Award winners), Kronos Quartet (Grammy Award winners), Bell Orchestre (Juno Award winners), and the ever-evolving Sevens Project Ensemble whose latest album included members of Arcade Fire, Stars, and the Patrick Watson Band. There has been broad acclaim for the works in which Cousins has been involved. These include a GAMIQ award for Best Electronic Album with Kid Koala's "2 Bit Blues," an IPPY Gold Medal for "Space Cadet," and an Oscar shortlisting for the film *Requiem for Romance* by Jonathan Ng. Cousins utilizes his Monkey Puzzle studio facility for his various composition, recording, and mix projects. This has also proven to be a great environment to produce cinematic remixes for a diverse range of artists, including the Grammy-nominated Beast and Bell Orchestre. Cousin's musical direction and string arrangements for Kid Koala's *Nufonia Must Fall* have been lauded: "exquisite sound mixing, composing and top class music from the Afiara String Quartet, we rocket from the quiet and sensitive to the intense, frightening and overwhelming." (*AussieTheatre.com*)

THE AFIARA QUARTET

The Afiara Quartet, an ensemble for the 21st century, is a string quartet defined by its pursuit of beauty, meaning, and growth as musicians and ambassadors for its genre. It is a dynamic and award-winning ensemble, described as “a revelation” (*La Presse*) with performances balancing “intensity and commitment” and “frequent moments of tenderness” (*Montreal Gazette*). After residencies at The Juilliard School and San Francisco State University, the Afiara are currently Fellowship Quartet at the Royal Conservatory of Music. The ensemble is winner of the Young Canadian Musicians Award, Concert Artist Guild, Munich ARD, and Banff International String Quartet Competitions, including the latter's Szekely Prize for the best interpretation of Beethoven. The Afiara has performed throughout the Americas, Europe, and Asia, at such venues as Carnegie Hall's Zankel and Weill Halls, the Kennedy Center, Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, Library of Congress in DC, Sao Paulo's Museum of Modern Art, Pro Musica of San Miguel de Allende, London's Wigmore Hall, Austria's Esterhazy Palace, Munich's Prinz Regenten Theatre, Amsterdam's Muziekgebouw, and the Royal Library in Copenhagen. Its relentless pursuit of beauty and discovery is documented in more than 25 commissions of new music, new educational outreach initiatives for school children funded by the Ontario Arts

Council, and projects with jazz virtuoso Uri Caine, Latin Grammy Award-winning producer Javier Limon, and groundbreaking scratch DJ, Kid Koala.

RYHNA THOMPSON (producer)

Ryhna Thompson has been a founder, president, producer, and artist manager in the cultural and creative industries for more than 15 years. Under the banner of her company Envision Management & Production, she has worked with internationally recognized, boundary breaking artists rooted in music, such as Kid Koala, Bell Orchestre, and Amon Tobin, among many others. Her artists have opened tours for Radiohead, Arcade Fire, and Jack Johnson, and performed in venues such as Madison Square Garden and Hollywood Bowl. She has assembled and managed tours on five continents and overseen dozens of record releases. Thompson has frequently worked with artists to conceive, produce, and manage projects in the realm where music intersects with film, animation, theater, literature, and interactivity. Projects have been brought to life with Mass MoCA, Luminato Festival, and the National Film Board of Canada, to name a few. She served for many years as president of the Music Managers Forum Canada. *Nufonia Must Fall Live* is her latest work as a multi-disciplinary producer, working alongside longtime collaborator, Kid Koala.