



A Game of Tarot

Created & Produced by **Amanda Millet-Sorsa**
Directed by **Alexandra Zelman-Doring**

Live performance at the
Unoppressive Non-Imperialist Bargain Bookstore

Saturday October 16, 2021

***rain date Sunday October 17, 2021*

Outdoors on the sidewalk in front of the bookstore at
34 Carmine Street in the West Village NY
@12pm & 1pm; duration 15 min

*An absurd five person card playing performance using **Amanda Millet-Sorsa's** tarot cards while reciting "Auguries of Innocence" by William Blake and directed by **Alexandra Zelman-Doring**.*

The dialogue between the card players occurs through the verses of William Blake's poem where the dynamics and story between the players unravels while playing a game of cards, structured around the French game of tarot. The cards are an original deck completely re-imagined by Amanda Millet-Sorsa and currently on exhibition at the bookstore.

When you walk into a bookstore, what emotion does that bookstore evoke? James (Jim) Drougas is the owner of the Unoppressive Non-Imperialist Bargain Bookstore, an independent bookstore standing on Carmine Street in the West Village for the past 30 years, embodying the spirits of William Blake, Patti Smith, Bob Dylan, Allen Ginsberg, Bernie, and AOC with a strong revolutionary vibe worthy of the green forests of Vermont where everything happening in the store is simply a part of Jim's life. It will make you want to throw everything in the air, your spirit driven with madness and passion, trying to make sense of the absurd as the bookstore kitty looks at you with those nonchalant eyes of a New Yorker on the subway. We met in 2020 through a Craigslist ad in the midst of the pandemic in New York City. I wanted to give away my extraordinary murphy bed/hidden desk/bookshelf furniture piece, which I had kept in my apartment to host visitors through Human Hotel—a network aimed at matching like-minded travelers and hosts. Jim had always wanted this kind of bed for his small West Village apartment and, in exchange, I received "The Marriage of Heaven and Hell" by William Blake. I called this bed a cocoon as it was enclosed by a curtain-poem written by poet Alexandra Zelman-Doring, who coincidentally, lived on Carmine Street as a child, and is now directing "A Game of Tarot", the performance, in collaboration with myself and five card playing performers.

All in the universe is connected, many would say. "A Game of Tarot: the Unoppressive Game" is a selection of 10 cards from the 78 handmade tarot cards first exhibited as part of the Art-In-Buildings Time Equities Inc. W10th Street Window in 2015. Today you can also see a limited edition printed card deck, housed in a box and info booklet printed and folded on origami paper, as well as individual digital photo prints and postcards of six cards displayed in the bookstore next to a neon "Psychic Reader" sign, pleasantly enrobed in a royal purple environment. This exhibition and performance is a way to understand those synchronistic encounters that weave into our lives and how and if to attribute meaning to them or simply toss it in the air.

The images in tarot cards are used by astrologers, and have interested psychoanalysts like Carl Jung to inform the unconscious. It can also serve to pass time, bring five people together through the card game of tarot as is often played in France alongside pétanque as a way to connect, unite, and bring people together. A card game is a form of communication and connection and can also bring out the worst in us especially if the card table is abruptly thrown to the floor in the heat of an argument with cards flying all over the place.



Creator & Producer

Amanda Millet-Sorsa is a visual artist and has exhibited at Art-in-Buildings Time Equities Inc, Theatre for the New City, The Last Brucennial, the NARS Foundation, and Proyecto Ace. Her inter-disciplinary collaborative works have been performed at the Socrates Sculpture Park, the Flux Factory, Brooklyn Brush Studios, Governor's Island, and Far Rockaway Beach. Amanda is also a contributing writer to The Brooklyn Rail.

// www.amanda-atelier.com // IG: @amandamilletsorsa



Director

Alexandra Zelman-Doring's plays have been presented at The Flea Theater, Access Theater, The Edinburgh Fringe, 59E59th, Dixon Place, HERE Arts Center, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and the New Ohio Theatre. She teaches at NYU's graduate Film program and is artistic director of Throes Theater.

// throestheater.com // NYUTISCH



Performer- Dealer & Card player

Pamela Enz, a Hybrid Collaborative Collagist, has received Edward Albee Fellowships, PEN grants, the Franklin Furnace Emerging Performance & Tennessee Williams One Act Play Awards. Her work was performed at The Brick, IRT Theater, Dixon Place's MainStage, TNC, EST, The 92 St.Y, WBAI radio. Theater for the New City produced her play "City Girls & Desperadoes" with Austin Pendleton and The Brick ran "Casablanca on the Hudson". Recent performances at Poetic Theater Productions, NYTW, and AFO. // In development is feature film AIRTIME // www.badrepredux.com



Performer-Card player

Jerie Choi Ortiz is a poet, musician, and educator who has performed at various national venues including the Port Townsend Acoustic Blues Festival, the NY Poetry Festival, the Brooklyn Folk Festival and the Lincoln Center Out of Doors. An Amy Award recipient and Brooklyn Poets fellow, she also teaches poetry in public schools and leads community workshops on radical music history and political education.



Performer-Card player

Marie Christine Katz is a Swiss-born interdisciplinary performance artist and actor. Collaboration and audience participation is key to her work.

// www.mariechristine.com

// IG: @dancingalonewithmyshadow @mck_workinprogress @mcayer27



Performer-Card player

Kim Savarino is a performer and choreographer based in New York City. She has created site-specific dance and theater works in spaces ranging from traditional stages, concrete backlots, and (once) an old bathroom in a former mental hospital, and she's a proud company member of Third Rail Projects and La MaMa's Great Jones Rep. Kim is Chinese-Sicilian-American and grew up in Southern California and West Virginia. // www.kimsavarino.com // IG: @kasavvy



Performer-Card player

Walls Trimble is an actor and photographer from Jupiter, FL. She trained at Northwestern University and Actors Theatre of Louisville before moving to New York.

// IG: @trimblenator @honeybellvintage.



This program is made possible by the New York City Artist Corps.