GRACELYN'S CHRONICLES

This weekend: Brooklyn Botanic Garden to present New York premier of 'Mother Lear,' in partnership with We Players

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Brooklyn Botanic Garden (Dr. Gracelyn Santos/Staten Island Advance)

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STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG), in partnership with We Players, will present a limited run of We Players' acclaimed "Mother Lear" at BBG, located at 990 Washington Ave., Brooklyn. The groundbreaking play is about navigating dementia, loss and family dynamics through Shakespeare.

There are three performances remaining: Saturday, August 27, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, August 28, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The performances, the East Coast debut of "Mother Lear," is part of Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Art in the Garden series featuring outdoor performances.

Presented in the Children's Garden Pavilion, the show's New York premiere is a special opportunity for New Yorkers to experience a site-integrated theater experience in one of the city's most beloved green spaces.

Written and performed by Ava Roy and Courtney Walsh, "Mother Lear" is a poignant production about an irascible middle-aged scholar with dementia who communicates with her caretaker daughter using only the text of Shakespeare's "King Lear" as the two struggle with aging, love and their own balance of power.
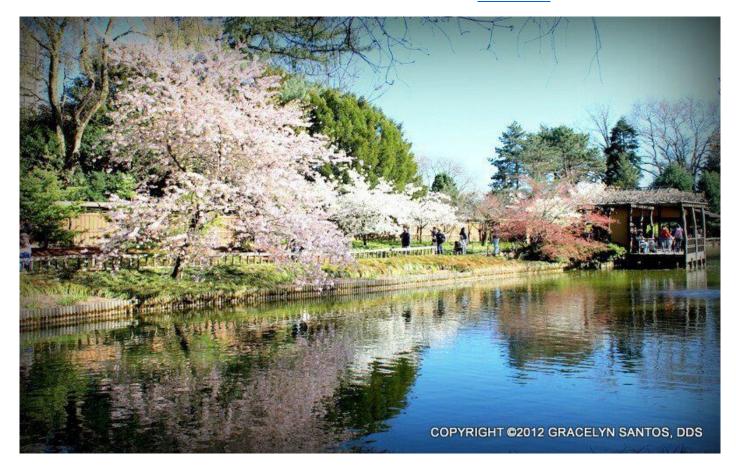
The 50-minute performance serves as Act One. A facilitated discussion with the audience exploring themes of aging, dementia, caregiving and end-of-life follows as Act Two.

"Mother Lear" has been produced on the West Coast in venues including traditional theaters, public parks, community centers and nursing homes. It aligns with BBG's focus in recent years to make the garden even more accessible to individuals with dementia and their support network.

Since 2016, BBG offers memory programs specifically designed for people with dementia and their caregivers, such as the Seasonal Highlights Memory Tours. Led by staff trained in horticultural therapy, these tours are offered on-site at the garden, virtually and presented to assisted living facilities.

There have been more than 1,000 participants in programs specifically designed for people suffering from dementia at the garden, providing a therapeutic outlet for individuals and families to experience nature in an urban environment.

Tickets are $40 or $36 for garden members. Tickets are available at bbg.org.

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About Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Founded in 1910, Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG) is an urban botanic garden that connects people to the world of plants, fostering delight and curiosity while inspiring an appreciation and sense of stewardship of the environment. Situated on 52 acres in the heart of Brooklyn and open year-round, the garden is home to over 12,000 kinds of plants and more than 30 specialty gardens. Learn more about BBG at bbg.org.

About We Players

We Players is the San Francisco Bay Area's premier site-specific theatre company. Founded in 2000, We Players creates productions that are intimate and interactive, stimulating all of the senses through dynamic in-situ staging.

Projects takes place in national, state and municipal parks, drawing thousands of diverse young people and adults from all backgrounds to these beautiful sites each year – many for the very first time.