



Resource Centre for the Arts
Visual Guide / Social Story

The
Dialysis
Project



For

The Dialysis Project

Streaming Live via YouTube

May 25, 27, 29 2021 at 7 PM



[ID: A photo from a past performance of *The Dialysis Project* of Leah wearing a shirt that says "Dialysis: DEAD if you don't, damned if you do".]



The Dialysis Project

RCAT Mainstage Production

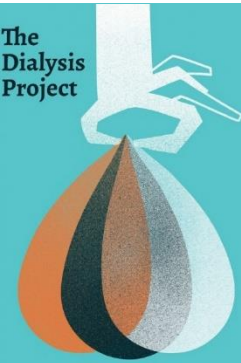
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The Dialysis Project, created by Leah Lewis, Robert Chafe and Evalyn Parry, is a live, up-close-and-personal encounter with one woman's lived experience of self-administered home dialysis.

Writer, performer, and kidney patient Leah Lewis invites audiences into her home via livestream for a unique "performance". Hooking herself up to her dialysis machine, Leah offers us a window into a life-maintaining medical procedure, and simultaneously, into her own life, as she weaves an intimate story about isolation, relationships, mortality, resilience, and identity.

Leah's vivid, personal storytelling is supported by evocative and imaginative visuals, and the result is a fascinating, funny, touching and utterly unique show.



[ID: A poster for *The Dialysis Project*, featuring designer graphic of a cartoon hand holding on to balloon shapes, and the text "RCA Theatre Company Mainstage Productions – Streaming Live – May 25, 27, 29 2021. Tickets 753 4531. Lspuhall.ca. Created by Leah Lewis, Robert Chafe, Evalyn Parry. Text and Performance by Leah Lewis. Directed by Evalyn Parry. Dramaturgy by Robert Chafe. Project Design Collaborator Kaitlin Hickey. Lighting and Sound Design by Brian Kenny. Projection Design by Elysha Poirier.]



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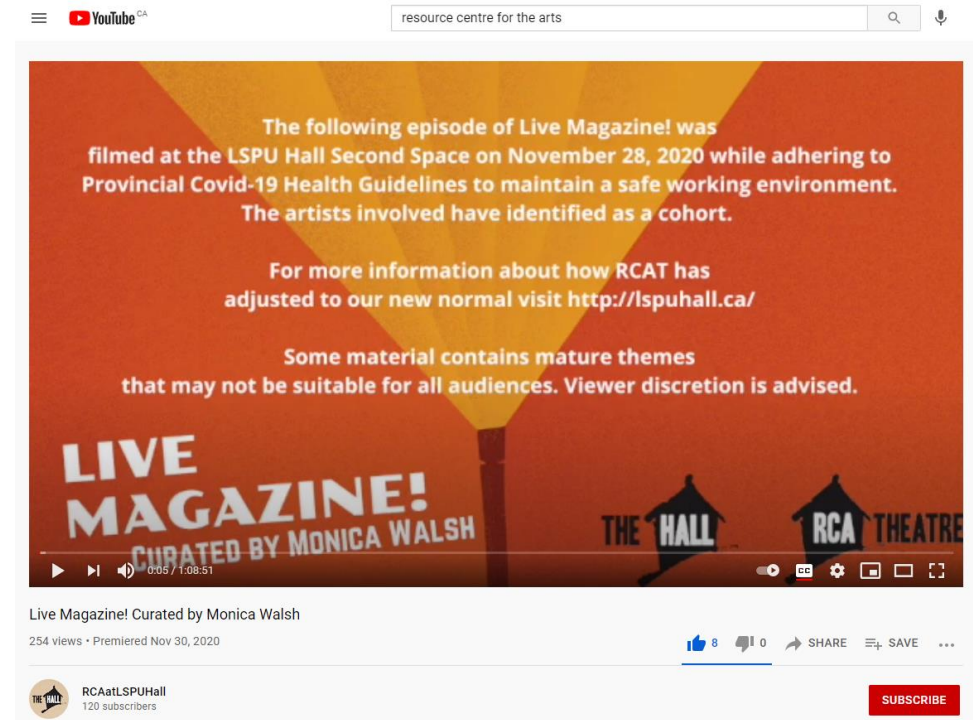


The Dialysis Project will be performed via Live Stream on RCAT's YouTube Channel.

Once you purchase your ticket, you will receive a confirmation email that will have all the information you will need to get onto the stream! This video will be **unlisted**, so you will not be able to look it up on YouTube like a normal video. You will only be able to access the stream through the link you will be sent, but the stream will look like a regular YouTube video.

There is tech support available during the show. If you are having trouble connecting or cannot find your link to the stream, you can call our Tech Support person **Ian** at **709-753-4537** for any assistance you may need. You can also add any questions you have you can add any questions in the live chat during the stream.

On the right is a sample stream to show you what *The Dialysis Project* stream will look like:



[ID: A screenshot of a YouTube video from RCAT's YouTube channel as an example of what the YouTube stream for *The Dialysis Project* will look like]



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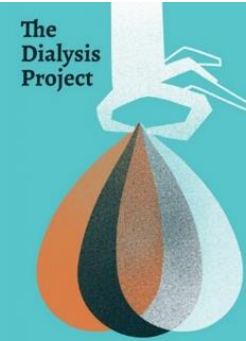
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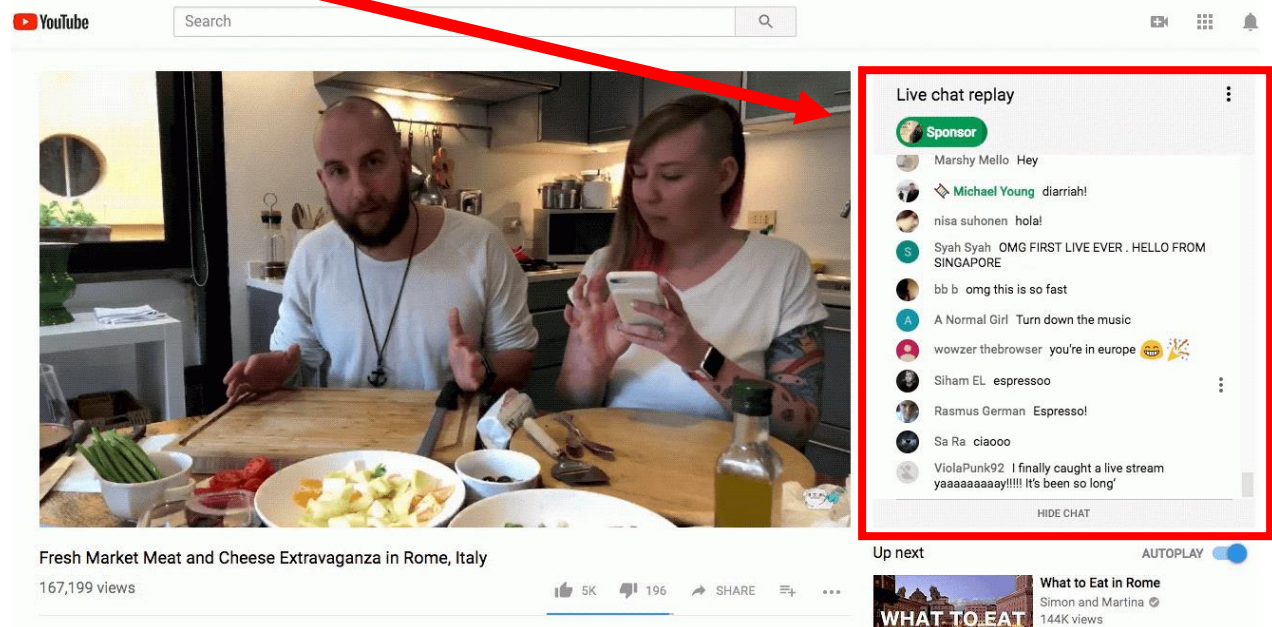


There is an interactive portion of *The Dialysis Project* where audience members are invited to participate in the chat. This participation is not integral to the experience of the show, but it is encouraged. If you would rather sit back and not engage, you will still experience the magic of *The Dialysis Project*.

You do Not need an account on YouTube to view the stream, but you will need to sign into a YouTube/Google account to participate in the live chat option on the stream. The chat will appear on the right-hand side of the screen next to the stream.

The chat is where you can engage with Leah, other audience members, and with RCAT staff about any technical issues you may be experiencing. You will also find useful show information in this chat window.

The red box on the right highlights what the chat box looks like from a sample YouTube Stream:



[ID: A screenshot of a sample YouTube Livestream entitled "Fresh Market Meat and Cheese Extravaganza in Rome, Italy" with a red arrow outlining the Live Chat box on the stream, with a red arrow pointing from the text describing the chat box to the chat box itself.]



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Content Advisory:

Performances of *The Dialysis Project* will contain a **Live Medical Procedure**.

In medicine, dialysis is the process of removing excess water, solutes, and toxins from the blood in people whose kidneys can no longer perform these functions naturally.

This procedure includes the insertion of a needle into the dialysis site. The performer Leah is a dialysis patient who completes at-home dialysis treatment, and this treatment is featured live as part of *The Dialysis Project*.

This procedure is safe, and one that Leah is familiar with having performed it on their own for years. There are measures in place for the performance to ensure the safety of the performer and production crew.

Viewer discretion is advised: the needle will be visible, there will be blood, medical equipment sounds, and medical jargon that may be triggering for some viewers.



[ID: A photo from a past performance of *The Dialysis Project* of Leah inserting a needle to a dialysis site on her leg, hooking herself up to the dialysis machine, and wearing a shirt that says "Dialysis: DEAD if you don't, damned if you do."]



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Let us introduce you to the team
making ***The Dialysis Project***
come to you via Live Stream!



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Leah Lewis- Creator/Performer

Leah Lewis is an artist and scholar. She has worked as an actor and writer within the provincial arts industry for many years, with theatre, film and television credits that include Artistic Fraud's adaptation of Michael Crummey's work *Salvage: The Story of a House*, Pope Productions adaptation of Ed Riche's *Rare Birds*, and others. Leah merges her love of the arts with her research in her assistant professor position with Memorial University Faculty of Education's Counselling Psychology graduate program. In particular, Leah applies the arts to research that considers the patient role and input to health outcomes. The Dialysis Project is the second of a series of Leah's arts-based work on patient voice and health.



[ID: A headshot of Leah Lewis]



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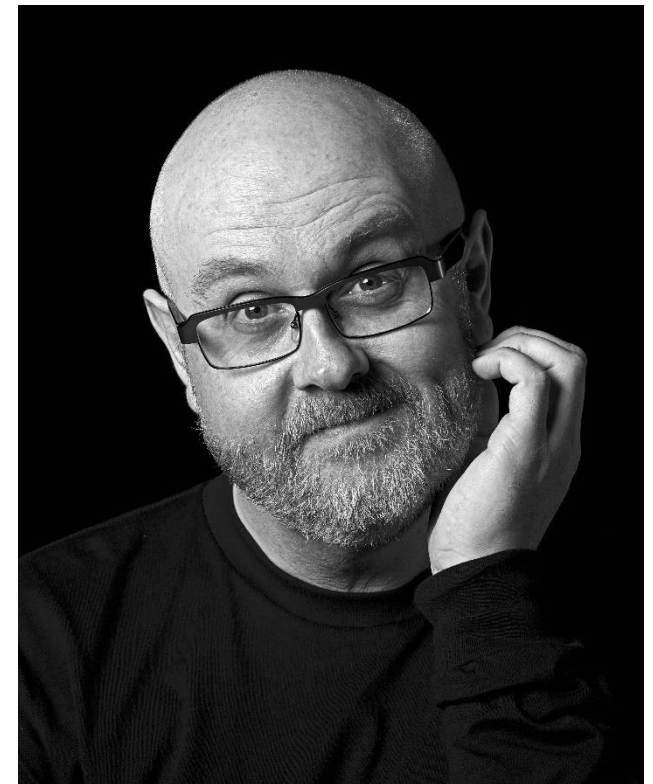
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Robert Chafe – Creator/Dramaturge

Robert Chafe has worked in theatre, dance, opera, radio, fiction and film. His stage plays have been seen in Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and in the United States, and include *Oil and Water*, *Tempting Providence*, *Afterimage*, *Under Wraps*, *Between Breaths*, and *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams* (adapted from the novel by Wayne Johnston.) He has been shortlisted twice for the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama and he won the award for *Afterimage* in 2010. He has been guest instructor at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, and The National Theatre School of Canada. In 2018 he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Memorial University of Newfoundland. He is the playwright and Artistic Director of Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland.



[ID: A headshot of Robert Chafe]



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Evalyn Parry – Creator/Director

Evalyn Parry is an award-winning, multi-disciplinary theatre-maker: a director, writer, performer and collaborator committed to performance that creates a space for challenging conversations, personal and social transformation. From 2015 to 2020, she served as Artistic Director of Buddies in Bad Times Theatre in Toronto. Parry's acclaimed, genre-defying works have toured nationally and internationally, including *Kiinalik: These Sharp Tools* (Edinburgh International Festival; Cervantino Festival, Mexico; Luminato Festival) and *SPIN*, a musical exploration of the feminist history of the bicycle (Lincoln Center, NYC; Sound Symposium, Newfoundland; High Performance Rodeo, Calgary, and many more). Other recent productions include *Obaaberima* by Tawiah M'Carthy (Buddies; Dora Award for Outstanding Production), *Gertrude and Alice* (Buddies / Independent Aunties; Governor General's Literary Award nominee) and the acclaimed, queer inter-generational *Youth/Elders Project* (Buddies). In addition to numerous Dora Mavor Moore Awards, Evalyn is the recipient of the KM Hunter Award for Theatre and the Ken McDougall Award for Directing, and has released five albums of music. www.evalynparry.com



[ID: A headshot of Evalyn Parry]



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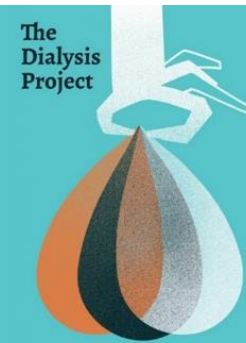
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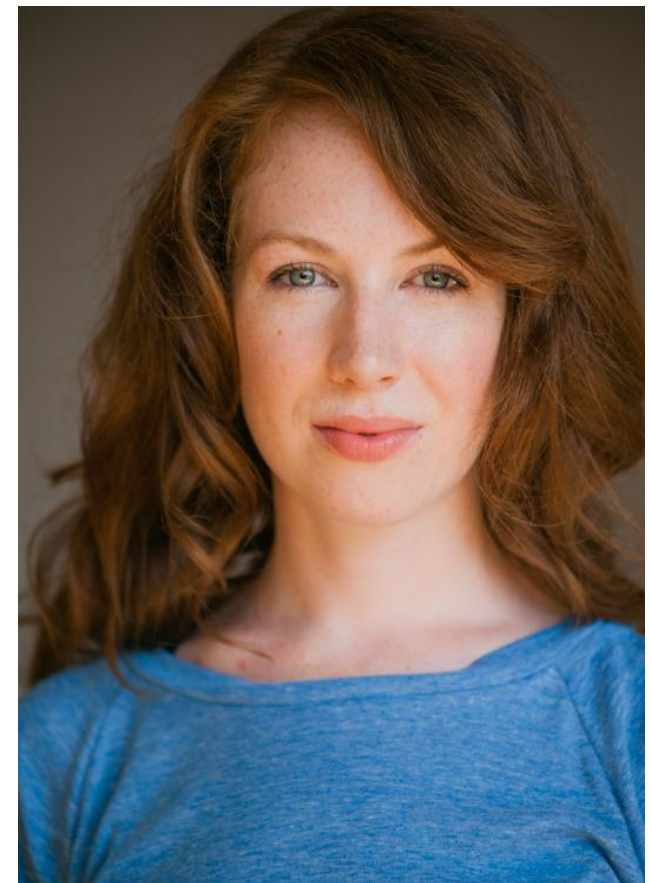
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Kaitlin Hickey – Project Design Collaborator

Kaitlin Hickey works with people to tell stories. Recently she's been gutting and slowly putting a house back together on the Bay of Fundy. In pre-pandemic times she had the pleasure to work on the following productions: Lighting Design, *Controlled Damage* (Neptune Theatre), Co-Production Design: *Book of Life* (Volcano Theatre & The Women Cultural Centre Rwanda); Set Design: *Kiinalik: These Sharp Tools* (Buddies in Bad Times, Edinburgh International Festival); Production Design: *Empire Trilogy: Four Sisters* (Paradigm Productions); Lighting Design: *Empire Trilogy: The Philosopher's Wife* (Paradigm Productions); Set Design: *Noor*, (Generous Friend, Aga Khan Museum); Lighting & Set Design, *Knives in Hens* (Coal Mine Theatre), Lighting Design: *The Children's Republic* (Belfry Theatre), Production Design, *Tibb's Eve* and *Chapel Arm* (Mindless Theatrics). She misses airports, street food and crowded celebrations.



[ID: A headshot of Kaitlin Hickey]



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Elysha Poirier -Projection Design

Elysha Poirier is a multidisciplinary artist working with animation, film and video. Combining digital and analog sources she creates intrinsic worlds of their own reflected in mixed media and digital 3D environments. Based in Montreal, Elysha is currently experimenting with generative platforms for virtual and mixed reality, including experimental web design. Elysha's work is deeply connected to movement and sound where she translates audio and gesture into real-time motion graphics - transporting the viewer to an imaginative world where boundaries and thresholds are rearranged and transposed. She's realized a wide range of installations and engaged in live performances for dance, experimental music, film, theatre and web.
<https://www.elyshapoirier.com/>



[ID: A headshot of Elysha Poirier]



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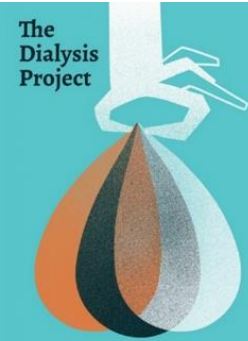
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Brian Kenny- Lighting and Sound Design/Technical Direction

Brian is a designer for theatre from Mount Pearl, Newfoundland and Labrador and is a graduate from The National Theatre School of Canada, The Banff Centre for the Arts, and Sheridan College. Selected credits include: *Come From Away* in concert [Mirvish], *Billy Elliott*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Music Man* [Stratford Festival], *Once* [Segal Centre], *Between Breaths*, *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams* [Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland], *Dedication*, *Seal Slippers*, *Tales of Dwipa* [RCA Theatre], *Tibb's Eve*, *Chapel Arm* [Mindless Theatrics], *Sherlock*, *A Woman Is A Secret*, *Ballad of the Young Offender* [SideMart Theatrical Grocery]. Brian is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada and IATSE Local 659.



[ID: A headshot of Brian Kenny]



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Jana Gillis – Stage Manger

Jana Gillis is a stage manager, actor, writer, director, improviser & filmmaker from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. This is her first time working with the RCA Theatre company and she's so happy to be part of the team. She holds a BFA in Theatre Acting from Memorial University of Newfoundland and a red t-shirt with a chair on it from The Second City Training Centre's Toronto Sketch Conservatory. In the before times, she was the resident stage manager for The Second City Toronto's House Company & Education Company. Other tech experience includes 2019 Toronto Fringe productions Woke N' Broke (Sixty60, Sketch) & Great Lakes Five (Low Fidelity Productions, Improv). She's ecstatic to be back working in Newfoundland with her first love theatre on this exciting new project. Thanks Susan Jennings, Sam Polito & Natalie Moore for teaching her all the things. Sometimes you can even catch her on stage!



[ID: A headshot of Jana Gillis]



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Emma Pope - Livestream Technician and Camera Operator

Emma Pope (she/her; elle) is a St. John's- and Montreal-based multidisciplinary sound technician/designer, videographer, composer and vocalist. Her manifold work and community involvement in the field of audio and film includes projects with the NL Sound Symposium, Spirit Song Festival, McGill's Schulich School of Music and Out of Earshot Festival amongst others. Emma is very grateful for the opportunity to work with her colleagues who she considers visionaries in the field. She hopes you enjoy the virtual experience of this story's enlightening tribute to chronic illness told through the lens of the amazing "Dialysis Warrior" Dr. Leah Lewis!

Thanks are indebted to my colleagues (Leah for being such a beautiful person and allowing us to help share her story; Brian for providing technical insight, laughs, and nerd-outs about gear; Jana for being a caring powerhouse of an SM; Elysha for her evident artistic excellence; Kaitlin for always providing inventive insight; Robert for unmistakably-witty creativity and rhetoric; of course Evalyn for commandeering our ship with grace); Michelle LaCour for always believing in me and teaching me so much of what I know in this field; my partner Drew for always untangling the myriad of cables and gear I tend to fall asleep with; my mother for entertaining my love of what she calls "wires and machines" all these years. RCAT (specifically Nicole and Nora) and the research team at MUN for their boundless help in the facilitating of this project.



[ID: A headshot of Emma Pope]



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The **Set Design** is made up of physical elements that establish the world of the play / show. These elements may include furniture, walls, stairs, doors, etc.

The set for *The Dialysis Project* is a less traditional set than we usually see in a theatre setting, and this is an unusual show! It is exciting to see artists creating new ways to present their work around the boundaries that have come with COVID-19 restrictions.

The Set for *The Dialysis Project* is the home of performer Leah Lewis. This story is one of isolation and belonging - one that will resonate with us all as we reflect on the past year of isolation from each other.

A major set piece of this show is Leah's at-home dialysis machine which will be featuring prominently during the show. We will also see furniture, artwork, and lights that make up Leah's home. We will also see several **Props** such as medical supplies, food, and two puppet characters.



[ID: A Behind-The-Scenes shot of Leah's living room where *The Dialysis Project* will be streaming from. There are lights, mics, monitors, a soundboard, a couch, a side table, lamps, and Leah sitting in their chair.]



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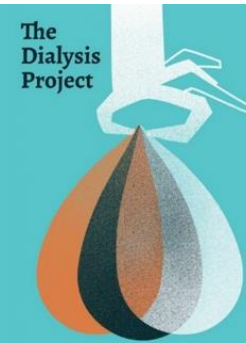
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The **Sound** for *The Dialysis Project* includes ques and medical equipment sounds to accompany the storytelling.

All sound levels have been set to balance out the sound of Leah's dialyzing with the spoken text, so you can experience the medical procedure sounds without the words being drowned out.

Using the pulsing "whoosh" of Leah's dialysis site the "bruit" we hear through her stethoscope is a launching pad for warm, soothing, and fluid musical score with a taste of environmental sounds from Leah's home province Newfoundland & Labrador, and the pounding surf that is iconically connected to that place.

While on Dialysis, Leah takes in the world outside her living room window. The **Lighting Design** is inspired by that using the cool evening light from St. John's in late spring combined with the warm incandescent glow of her cozy home. Bold coloured light transports us to a Party in Montreal, and an apartment in the early hours of the morning. As the show progresses, the natural evening light from the window fades to evening shadow.

There are also overlapping animations that accompany Leah's story as she takes the audience on her journey.



[ID: A photo from a past performance of *The Dialysis Project* of Leah inserting a needle to a dialysis site on her leg, hooking herself up to the dialysis machine, and wearing a shirt that says "Dialysis: DEAD if you don't, damned if you do" with a projection of synchronized swimmers in the background]



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Here is what Designer Elysha Poirier has to say about their design for *The Dialysis Project*:

“The video's goal is to elicit feelings of dreaming, embodiment, and memory. Hand drawn and painterly motifs are combined in playful animations that are closely related to Leah's home in St. Johns, Newfoundland. Beautiful Signal Hill views, beloved canine companions, and the sharing of vivid dreams inspired the animated content you will see. There are also videos and archival footage that help us place ourselves in a specific time or state of memory, as well as metaphors for the body's intricate and rhythmic systems.”



[ID: A photo from a past performance of *The Dialysis Project* of Leah wearing a shirt that says “Dialysis: DEAD if you don’t, damned if you do”.]



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Survey:

After the show, you are invited to take part in a research study in relation to this performance, designed to explore the experiences of audience members and gain your feedback on the impact of the performance on your learning and feelings regarding dialysis and people who experience dialysis within Newfoundland and Labrador.

The link to this survey will be sent out in the email containing your link the live stream.

The research component is optional and anonymous. Follow this link for more information on our website:

<http://lspuhall.ca/invitation-to-participate-in-survey-and-focus-group/>



[ID: A photo from a past performance of *The Dialysis Project* of Leah holding up a needle for display and wearing a shirt that says "Dialysis: DEAD if you don't, damned if you do".]



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Thank you for taking the time to read through our Visual Guide / Social Story for *The Dialysis Project*.

We also have a Visual Guide for the LSPU Hall available on our website under the Accessibility Section. There you will find pictures & information about the theatre space for the next time you visit us.

<http://lspuhall.ca/accessibility/>

If you have any questions about anything you have seen in this guide, please contact our Communications Manager at

communications@lspuhall.ca.

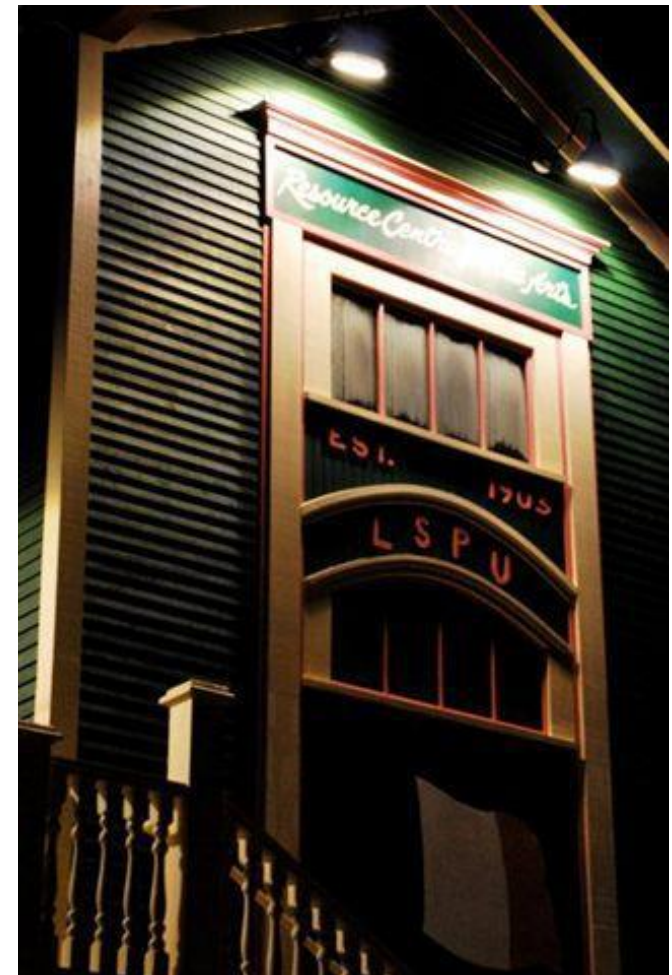
We hope you enjoy the show & thank you for choosing Resource Centre for the Arts for your night out!

LSPU Hall Box Office

3 Victoria Street, St. John's, NL A1C 3V2 Phone: (709) 753-4531 ext 200

Resource Centre for the Arts Theatre Company (RCAT)

3 Victoria Street, St. John's, NL A1C 1G8 Phone: (709) 753-4537



[ID: A photo of the outside the LSPU Hall, 3 Victoria Street, St. John's NL. The building reads "Resource Centre for the Arts. Est 1905. LSPU."]