

A New Immersive Theater Experience Explores the Extraordinary Bond Between People and Their Pets

Theater, poetry, music, and guided conversation in a celebration of the human-animal bond. The production asks a simple question: Is love worth the heartbreak

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, UNITED STATES, August 10, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- SAN FRANCISCO, CA - August 10, 2026 - The human-animal bond brings extraordinary richness to our lives, a source of endless love, laughter, comfort, and connection. Thus, the loss of a beloved pet can lead to one of life's deepest heartbreaks. Yet it remains one of our least acknowledged forms of grief.

This October, Our Loving Companions invites audiences to experience something entirely new.

This 90-minute immersive theatrical event celebrates the profound relationships we share with the animals who shape our lives. Through an original collection of short plays, poetry, music, and guided audience reflection, Our Loving Companions explores the laughter, devotion, companionship, grief, and unconditional love that define the human-animal bond.

The production explores this paradox from every angle: How do we invest so deeply in relationships with beings who won't live as long as we do? What do we do with the devastating loss when it comes? And perhaps most importantly, what gives us the courage to open our hearts again? Through an original collection of short plays, poetry, music, and guided audience reflection, the answer emerges simply and powerfully: because the love is always worth it.

The show premieres at The Marsh San Francisco October 15-18 before moving to The Marsh Berkeley October 22-25.

Following most performances, audience members are invited to remain for a facilitated conversation led by pet grief professionals, creating a rare opportunity for storytelling,



Our Loving Companion

remembrance, and community.

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The project began when Dr. Alan Stewart, a veterinary internist who has spent nearly four decades caring for animals and their families throughout the Bay Area, approached Elizabeth Coplan, founder of Grief Dialogues, the arts organization dedicated to changing conversations around death, dying, and loss through storytelling. She had already been successfully doing this unique format for

experiences of human loss and grief in the veteran community.

Joined by Stephanie Weisman, founder and artistic director of The Marsh, they held a national contest for short plays and poems across the country to create original works exploring every facet of the human-animal bond. The final production was dramaturgically shaped by consulting director Dani Davis, directed by Pamela Hollings, and assistant directed by Anna Takayo.

"As a veterinarian, I've witnessed thousands of relationships between people and their animals," said Dr. Alan Stewart, co-producer of *Our Loving Companions*. "I've seen the extraordinary joy animals can bring, the comfort they provide during life's hardest moments, and the profound grief families experience when they are gone. We created *Our Loving Companions* because those relationships deserve to be celebrated. This isn't a production about loss. It is a production about love, and why loving an animal is always worth the heartbreak."

"As Grief Dialogues celebrates 10 years of honoring the people we've lost, we've discovered a natural expansion into pet grief: one of our most profound yet unwitnessed losses. *Our Loving Companions* gives us space to collectively honor those bonds and recognize that the way we grieve our animals is worthy of our full compassion." - Elizabeth Coplan, Founder, Grief Dialogues.

A portion of the ticket price from the production will go to a Bay Area non profit organization that helps provide life-saving emergency veterinary care for families who otherwise could not afford treatment.

The goal is that other non profits will mount the show throughout the country to do the same.

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

The Marsh San Francisco, 1062 Valencia Street

October 15, 16 & 17 at 7:30 p.m.

October 18 at 3:00 p.m.

The Marsh Berkeley, 2120 Allston Way

October 22, 23 & 24 at 7:30 p.m.

October 25 at 3:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$35 General Admission, \$50 Reserved Seating, \$100 where a portion goes directly to the non profit.

Tickets and information: <https://themarsh.org/our-loving-companions/>

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