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INVENTION & REIMAGINATION

2019
2020



BONNETS:

(HOW LADIES OF GOOD BREEDING ARE
INDUCED TO MURDER)

BY JEN SILVERMAN
MARCH 13 - 22, 2020 STUDIO 60

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE
THEATRE.MSU.EDU

Bonnets:

(How Ladies of Good Breeding Are Induced to Murder)

By Jen Silverman

Directed By
Ann Folino White

Assistant Directors
Brandon Drap Harley Harris

Musical Director
Jason Painter Price

Costume/Hair/Makeup Design
Chantel Booker

Scenic Design
Ranae Selmeyer

Properties Master
Jordan House

Lighting Design
Rachel Lauren

Sound Design
Jason Painter Price

Dramaturg
Margo Skornia

Stage Manager
Mia Taylor

CAST

God	Michala Peltz
Claire	Claire Wilcher*
Valerie	Zaria Aikens
Laurent	Sharon Combs*
Mrs. Wolcott	Taylor Mueller
Georgette	Chloe Brandt
Webster	Abigail Byrne
Prudence	Carly Wilson
Fortitude	Leslie Miller
Daniel	Samantha Campbell
Mistress Stone	Gabrielle Mack
Understudy Prudence	Kiersten Wilcher
Understudy Fortitude	Kaitlyn Kelley

The Understudies will perform on
Tuesday, March 17 at 7:30pm and Saturday, March 21 at 2pm

*Master of Fine Arts Candidate

The show runs approximately 69 minutes, with no intermission.

WHEN ENTERING THE THEATRE:

Please turn off cell phones, mobile devices, alarm watches and anything that makes noise.
The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.



RECOGNIZE SOMEONE SPECIAL

The Friends of Theatre **Honor/Memorial Giving Program** offers you a way to honor your friends and family by making a tribute or memorial gift to MSU Theatre.

Contributions made to the **Honor/Memorial Giving Program** can be used to honor any important occasion, including birthdays, weddings, and anniversaries. It is also a very special way to remember those who are no longer with us.

The honoree will receive a beautiful card notifying them of your thoughtful gift. Any contribution of \$50 or more will be listed in our programs all season long.

In Memorial Gifts

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Our contemporary stages are haunted by the limited imagination of playwrights past when it comes to what a woman is. *Bonnets: (How Ladies of Good Breeding Are Induced to Murder)* savages reductive archetypes from historical stages and societies, the legacies of which we live with today. The play makes an *improper* mess of the sweet ingénue/sultry vixen, the faithful wife/harping shrew, the doting mother/overbearing matriarch, to name just a few.

As part of the Big Ten Theatre Consortium's initiative to commission plays by female playwrights about women, Jen Silverman's *Bonnets* challenges us to re-envision women as fallible, truly kind, rude, brave, anxious, smart— ya know, complex humans; individuals who are never just one thing, good or bad, all the damn time. I think of the play this way: try forcing Joan Jett or Joan of Arc (or any woman in the MSU Department of Theatre) into a corset, tell her to behave, and see what she does.

— Ann Folino White

DRAMATURG'S NOTE

Although Jen Silverman's work spans two centuries, we see threads of anger, frustration, and feminine rage in each story. This anger is realized by the furious punk song the *Bonnets* sing.

Punk ideology is, at its heart, the notion that we have the right to define ourselves. Punk artists shattered conventions of music, appearance, and dress. Female punk artists, especially, used punk to set their own standards of femininity; their aggressive music and unconventional haircuts were a rejection of societal expectations. They used ugliness to reclaim their autonomy.

As the story progresses, the *Bonnets* get further and further in their rock song. By the end, God herself has joined in. It's as though She recognizes herself in the alienated, lonely women we see onstage. At first, She tries to keep them on a leash, but by the end of the play, She, too, is overcome with anger and gives them Her permission to burn the whole place to the ground.

—Margo Skornia

SPECIAL EVENTS

Director Pre-Show Discussion on Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 1:15pm

Post-show Discussion on Thursday, March 19 (following the performance)



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MARIAN, OR THE TRUE TALE OF ROBIN HOOD



BY ADAM SZYMKOWICZ
DIRECTED BY ALEXIS BLACK
APRIL 10 - 19, 2020 PASANT THEATRE

INVENTION & REINVENTION

2019
2020

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PROVISIONAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We collectively acknowledge that Michigan State University occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Lands of the Anishinaabeg – Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. In particular, the University resides on Land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw. We recognize, support, and advocate for the sovereignty of Michigan's twelve federally-recognized Indian nations, for historic Indigenous communities in Michigan, for Indigenous individuals and communities who live here now, and for those who were forcibly removed from their Homelands. By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and will work to hold Michigan State University more accountable to the needs of American Indian and Indigenous peoples.

WHAT ARE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS?

A *Land Acknowledgement* or *Land Recognition* is a formal statement, often given orally at the beginning of organized events, celebrations, or activities. It recognizes, respects, and affirms that there is an irreducible and ongoing relationship between Indigenous people and the Land. Land Acknowledgements are especially important in contemporary nation-states, like the US and Canada, in which the political structures are based on settler-colonialism and the expropriation of Lands from Indigenous peoples. Land Acknowledgements or Land Recognitions serve to illuminate ongoing Indigenous presence, as well as recognize and counter settler-colonial legacies of violence and Land expropriation.



We would like to express our gratitude to the following friends who have generously supported the MSU Department of Theatre during the past year as we celebrated the 2017 Friends of Theatre Gala and 57 years of Summer Circle Theatre. If we have inadvertently left your name off this list, please accept our apologies and contact us so that we may make the correction as this list is current as of 02/10/2020.

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Sylvia S. and Robert A. Stevens
Sherry L. Stevens
Miguel J. Stewart and
Mary H. Job
Dorothy R Van Looy

currently studying Intimacy Direction and has spoken at conferences around the country on the topic of fatness and body diversity in theatre. Lots of high-fives to Dr. AFW and the grad cohort fam.

KIERSTEN WILCHER (*Understudy Prudence*) Detroit, MI; Junior BA Theatre. This isn't her first play, but this is her first play at MSU. She is very excited to perform with these amazing women because she has loved acting her whole life! She is thankful for this opportunity and wants to show love to her friends and family for their love and support; she hopes everyone enjoys the show!

CARLY WILSON (*Prudence*) Romeo, MI; Senior BFA acting, ACM minor. Carly was last seen in *Dr. Fox and the Impossible Cure for Death* (Nurse Roslyn). She is grateful to share the stage with such a talented group of individuals. She wants to thank her family, friends, Jack, and Tilly for their constant love and support.



March 26 - April 26, 2020
MICHIGAN PREMIERE

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Directed by Paige Conway

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PRODUCTION TEAM

Technical Director	Mark Willoughby
Production Manager	Laura Scales
Costume Shop Supervisor	Angie Wendelberger
Scene Shop Supervisor	Levi Galloway
Assistant Stage Managers	Maris Keller, Audrey Warren
Assistant Scenic Design	Jordan House
Intimacy and Fight Director	Alexis Black
Assistant Fight Director	Mack Marshall
Assistant Intimacy Director	Claire Wilcher
Fight Captain	Michala Peltz
Paint Charge	Ranae Selmeier
Master Electrician and Sound Engineer	Griffin Irish*
Light Board Operator	Ketura Bradford
Sound Board Operator	Mitchell Miller
House Manager	Maeyson Menzel
Deck Crew Chief	Stephanie Reyes
Costume Crew Chief	Deedee Whitman
Costume Shop Technicians	Zech Saenz*, Jenna Gove*, Griffin Irish*, Ketura Le'Audrey, Gabi Martin, Cami Ernst, Eli Drake, Jade Jaarda, Madelyn Eischer, Chantel Booker
Scene Shop	Grace Foiles*, Brandon Barker, Michael Gault, Cole Dzubak, Maris Keller, Collin Schy, Emma Kolakowski, Evan Peterson
Crew	Students of THR 111
Publicity	Abbie Tykocki
Fiscal Officer	Sherry Stevens
Photographer	Charles Benoit
Program	Brian de Vries

*Master of Fine Arts Candidate

FACULTY MENTORS

Costume, Hair, and Makeup Design	Karen Kangas-Preston
Lighting Design	Shannon Schweitzer
Properties	Ranae Selmeier
Stage Management	Tina Newhauser
Dramaturgy	Dan Smith

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

ZARIA AIKENS (*Valerie*) Grosse Pointe, MI; Junior BFA Acting and Musical Theatre Minor. Zaria has appeared in several productions at MSU including various roles in this past Summer Circle Theatre season and *Oklahoma!* where she was nominated for a Pulsar Award for Best Featured Actress (Musical) as Andie Carnes. She is more than excited to be a part of *Bonnets* and would like to thank her family, friends, and oh-so pretty sisters for their support and love, profite du spectacle!

CHANTEL BOOKER (*Costume Designer*) Detroit, MI; Senior BFA Apparel & Textile Design, Theatre Minor. Chantel is excited to be in her final semester at MSU! She most recently designed *Frankenstein* (Hair & Makeup) this past fall and *Dames at Sea* (Costumes) for Summer Circle Theatre last season. She is extremely grateful for MSU ATD & MSU THR faculty for their encouraging advice and she would also like to thank her mother, family, and friends for their love and support.

CHLOE BRANDT (*Georgette*) Grand Ledge, MI; Senior BFA Acting, Musical Theater Minor. Chloe was last seen at MSU in *Oklahoma!* and *Dr. Fox and The Impossible Cure for Death*. Mad love to the incredible women that made this show such a bitchin' time.

ABIGAIL BYRNE (*Webster*) Novi, MI; Senior BFA Acting, Musical Theatre Minor. Abigail was recently seen in *How to Make Friends and Then Kill Them* (Dorrie), and *Men on Boats* (Bradley). She is a member of After School Special and Man Overboard! Improv. She'd like to thank the OG rule breakers in her life—her siblings.

SAMANTHA CAMPBELL (*Daniel*) Fenton, MI; Sophomore BFA Acting, Musical Theatre Minor. Samantha was most recently seen in *Frankenstein*, After School Special improv, and her own co-founded group, Second Stage Musical Theatre. She is grateful to be a

part of such a fun cast and would like to thank her loving friends and family for always being by her side.

SHARON COMBS (*Laurent*) Conway, Arkansas; Second-year MFA Acting Candidate. Sharon is excited to perform in her third MSU production! Previously, she was seen in *Oklahoma!* and *Twelfth Night*. She has also appeared in the Williamston Theatre production of *A Hunting Shack Christmas* and is a current company member with Shake on the Lake in New York. Much love to Chad and the Cohort!

BRANDON DRAP (*Assistant Director*) White Lake, MI; Senior BFA Acting Major. *Bonnets* is his final MSU production before he graduates in May. He was last seen in *Twelfth Night*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, *One Man Two Guvnors*, and is one of the student directors of After School Special Improv. He is happy his last MSU production is such a wonderful show and wants to thank his family, friends, and his dog Eric for their support.

HARLEY HARRIS (*Assistant Director*) Austin, TX; Sophomore BFA Acting and Film Studies Minor. *Bonnets* is Harley's third MSU production, and he's very grateful to have been part of the directing process for this. He was recently seen on stage in MSU's production of *Frankenstein* and is a member of After School Special Improv. He would like to thank his friends and his family for their love and support!

JORDAN HOUSE (*Assistant Scenic Designer, Props Master*) Sterling Heights, MI; Freshman BFA Design. Jordan's most recent works include *And They Dance Real Slow in Jackson* and MSU's production of *Frankenstein*. She is very excited as *Bonnets* is her first collegiate design.

MARIS KELLER (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Sterling Heights, MI; Freshman BFA Stage Management. Maris is ecstatic to be working on her first stage management team here at

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

MSU. She is so grateful to have worked with such a lovely cast and crew. She has had a fantastic experience overall and cannot wait for people to see the show!

KAITLYN O'BRIEN KELLEY (*Understudy Fortitude*) Ann Arbor, MI; Senior BA Theatre, BA Journalism, Musical Theatre Minor. Kaitlyn was most recently seen in *The Ties We Bind* and *Number the Stars*. She would like to thank her best friend Sarah for supporting her and standing by her side for the past four years! She would also like to thank her State News family for being amazing!

RACHEL LAUREN (*Lighting Designer*) Sterling Heights, MI; Senior BFA Design, Arts and Cultural Management Minor. Rachel's latest lighting designs at MSU include *Oklahoma!* and *Frankenstein*. *Bonnets* is her last show at MSU, and she is so thankful for four years of fun. She would like to thank her family, friends, and Fenix for their continued support throughout her last year of undergrad!

GABRIELLE MACK (*Mistress Stone*) Novi, Michigan; Junior BFA Acting, BA Studio Art, and Graphic Design Minor. Gabrielle is very excited to tell this story alongside so many incredible women. She sends much love and thanks to her stellar, amazing, wonderful family and friends for their constant love and support! You can see Gabrielle this summer in *Be Here Now* at the Williamston Theatre in Williamston, Michigan.

LESLIE MILLER (*Fortitude*) South Lyon, MI; Freshman BFA Acting, BS Neuroscience. Leslie is very excited to perform in her second show at Michigan State! She would like to thank her friends, family, cast, and crew for their constant support and for giving her an amazing learning experience. She hopes you enjoy the show!

TAYLOR MUELLER (*Mrs. Wolcott*) Romeo, MI; Senior BFA Actor, BA Supply Chain Management, Musical Theatre Minor. Taylor

has had a bloody blast playing Wolcott and will cherish the memories made with everyone involved in *Bonnets*! She would like to thank her wonderful parents, family, Andrew, and friends for their never-ending support.

MICHALA PELTZ (*God*) Cleveland, OH; Senior BFA actor and Minor in MT. Michala is excited to be in this show for her final performance here at MSU. She was most recently seen in *Frankenstein*, *Pulp Vérité*, and *Sexual Politics Series*. She would like to thank her family, friends, and roommates for all their support. Congrats to the cast and crew on an amazing show!

MARGO SKORNIA (*Dramaturg*) Rockford, MI; Senior BA Theatre, BA Chinese. Margo is delighted to be here for her final show at Michigan State. She most recently served as the dramaturg for *Frankenstein* and *A Wrinkle in Time*. She sends her gratitude and love to her family and housemates.

MIA TAYLOR (*Stage Manager*) Pittsburgh, PA; Sophomore BFA Stage Manager. Mia is thoroughly enthused to be making her stage-managing debut at Michigan State by working on this murderously-good show! Outside of *Bonnets*, Mia does improv and feeds her bearded dragon (Gucci) crickets. She would like to thank her friends, family, and girlfriend for their support! To the cast and crew, break all the legs.

AUDREY WARREN (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Sterling Heights, MI; Junior BA Theatre. Audrey is so happy to be assistant stage-managing her third show at MSU. She is delighted to work along the sides of such amazing and wonderful humans and is so thankful for those who were there for her along the way.

CLAIRE WILCHER (*Claire*) Indianapolis, IN; Second-Year MFA Acting. Claire was recently seen in MSU's *Twelfth Night* (Feste), *A Wrinkle in Time* (Mrs. Whatsit), and *A View from the Bridge* (Beatrice). She is also