

The Director Wishes to Thank:

Francis Gooding-Silverwood

Mark Silverwood

Rozanne Gooding-Silverwood

Margaret Gooding-Silverwood

Jill Holm-Denoma, Ph.D, Licensed Clinical Psychologist

Travis Brown

Jazze Belle

Raquel Chávez

The Corkscrew Theater Festival Crew

Clare Hammor

Jamie Law

DU Department of Theatre Faculty and Staff

Marsico Grant Committee

Upcoming Main Stage Events:

The Trojan Women

by Euripides

What is the aftermath of war? What is the impact of decimation on the humanity that is left behind? *The Trojan Women* explores the fates of Hecuba, Cassandra, Andromache, and Helen in a story of how war strips away home, land, and family in this timeless and richly universal play.

February 22 - March 4, 2018

Senior Capstone Festival

Seniors direct a one-act play using the theatrical skills, techniques, perspectives and styles learned from our program.

April and May 2018

Follow Us: @DUTheatreDept



Box Office:
newmantix.com/dutheatre
303-871-7720



From the Director

The first time I heard the story of Morgaine (Mo) and Francis (Fran) was in a car on the way to a prison. Morgaine was (and is) a theatre maker and was my assistant on an applied theatre project I was facilitating. Morgaine confided in me as a new friend; her twin sister, Fran, had been diagnosed with the mental illness Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) several years earlier and Mo had just found out through her parents that Fran had been admitted to a hospital for over using drugs, yet again. Mo was too heartbroken to call Fran. She was drawing a hard boundary, as she so often had learned to do in the face of BPD, in order to stay sane herself. Mo turned to me and looked me deep in the eyes, "For my own sanity, I've already accepted that BPD will kill Fran. Now, I'm just waiting for the call."

Week after week, as we drove to the prison through rush-hour traffic, Mo would peel back layer after layer on the story of her life with her twin. Mo was so generous in her story telling while I asked question after question. She clearly loved her sister more than anything, but felt disconnected, angry and hurt. I was heartbroken by her stories, but curious to understand what it must be like to love your other half, your twin, through a mental illness as terrifying as BPD. From the seat next to her, I learned about Mo and Fran's parents, the twins' scary, premature birth, their childhoods, their rocky teenager years and about the tragic toll that Fran's mental illness had and was taking on their lives. On one of our last drives to the prison, Mo shared with me that she had decided to use real recordings from her family's therapy sessions (which you are about to hear) as material for a script. She wanted to write a play about her life, about Fran, about BPD. And, it was eventually Mo's script writing that actually brought Mo and Fran back into contact again after months of not speaking. And, it is the script you are about to see and hear.

This play is mostly a devised play. That means that when we started our rehearsals, only a few weeks ago, the bones of this story existed in the script but looked very different. Over the past few weeks, Mo, the incredible six cast members, and myself created the order of the text and all of the movement you are about to see. The recordings you will hear are recordings from the "real" (not actors) Mo, Fran, their parents, one of Fran's Psychiatrists, and using multiple modalities – text, voice recordings, music, dance and more.

While part of the intention of this play is to inform folks about what BPD is, and what it looks like in real life, the heart of this story is about these beautiful, complicated, very real twin sisters. It's about Mo making sense of loving her other half through a mental illness that isn't well known or understood by many and comes with a very complicated, gendered history.

I have been so incredibly lucky to work with this specific team on this delicate, complex piece of theatre. You should know that the women you are about to see on stage, and the crew behind the scenes, have given their everything to this process. They have shown up, day after day to physically and emotionally exhausting rehearsals, with their spirits and minds open and full of compassion. To Morgaine and Fran, thank you for trusting me to hold your story – it has been such an honor and your faith in me, and this process, means so much to me. To you, thank you for being here and for being willing to dive into this complicated, beautiful, hard, important piece of theatre with us.

**Director Ashley Lauren Hamilton, PhD
(Assistant Professor of Theatre at DU)**

Cradle Two Grave

created by Morgaine Gooding-Silverwood

This production is dedicated to Charlotte Watlington

Cast

Morgaine (Mo) **Isabelle Chern**
Francis (Fran) **Rhianna DeVries**
Chorus **Molly Carter**
Hayley Emerson
Evan Monteith
Tess Neel

Running time: 75 minutes with no intermission

If you leave during the show, you will not be allowed to re-enter

Please silence your cell phones

Photography and videography is not allowed

Resources

For folks who have or think they may have BPD, or might be struggling with another mental illness, please don't hesitate to reach out for the help you need and deserve.

For people with BPD or similar syndromes: denverdbt.com

For adults and adolescents: cherrycreekpsychotherapy.com

For more general resources:

namidenver.org and coloradocrisisservices.org

Artistic Team

Director Ashley Lauren Hamilton
Lighting Designer Evan Mues
Costume Designer Janice Benning Lacek
Sound Designer Steven McDonald

Production Team

Technical Director Steven McDonald
Costume Shop Supervisor Katie Horney
Stage Manager Samuel Pierce III
Assistant Stage Manager Max O'Neill
Scenic Artisan Taylor Adams
Scene Shop Foremen Taylor Adams
Sara Sachs
Deck and Wardrobe Paula Aguayo Lopez
Cameron Chaikin
Quinn Hannah-White
House Manager Matthew S. Rumsey

Shop T.A.s

Anthony Adu, Daniel Crumrine, Ray Reidenbaugh,
Meagan Traver, Samuel Pierce III

Students of Costume and Tech Studio

Adara Baltazar, Cameron Chaikin, Hannah Chapple, Isabelle Chern,
Rhianna DeVries, Kevin Douglas, Ellie Evans, Newt Fantalis,
Darren Fleming, Katie Goodwin, Caitlin Gurtner, Jordan Hass,
Grace Jacobson, Cable Jackson, Reanna Magruder, Destiny Manewal,
Evan Monteith, Joseph Morrison, Tess Neel, Tamarra Nelson, Anja Oss,
Alston Phu, Alek Seballes, Jack Trembath, Isis Usborne, Bryce Walsh