Fortune's Fool Theatre presents

To Breed, Or Not to Breed

an anthology of stories about choices, presented in a COVID-19 safe environment

concept by Ariel Pinkerton
directed by Ben Layne

NOVEMBER 4-22
THE CRANE THEATER

ONLINE PROGRAM: WEEK 1
“Therefore I Trust Myself”  
written and performed by Anthony & Haley Sisler-Neuman  
(presented on video)

“Mother’s House”  
written by Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay  
performed by Jeannie Lander

“I Have Only One Regret”  
written and performed by Heidi M. Garrido

“I Don’t Wanna”  
written by Daniel Pinkerton  
performed by Daniel & Ariel Pinkerton

“Real”  
written and performed by Suzie Juul

“This Is Not How I Wanted to Start This Story”  
written and performed by Ariel Pinkerton

Directed by Ben Layne  
Dramaturgy by Ruth Virkus  
Lighting design by Ariel Pinkerton  
Music by Aaron Henderson  
Board operator and stage manager: Andy Kedl  
Videography for online presentation: Bill Stiteler  
Program and website drawing: Grace Goeks  
Press image: Jace Garrido-Edington for HM Photography  
Program: Daniel Pinkerton

SPECIAL THANKS
Liz Neerland & Josh Cragun, Matthew Gueffroy Foster, Jane Johnston, Madeline Wall
**Week One Artists**

**Anthony Sisler-Neuman** (writer, performer) is a theater maker and educator in the Twin Cities. He and his wife, Haley, are the co-founders and directors of Graceful Monsters Educational Theatre Collective, working with youth. Anthony also facilitates conversations with fellow educators and caregivers about mindfulness in language, specifically around gender identity. He has been seen on stage and worked as a playwright with Uprising Theatre Company, 20% Theater Company, Freshwater Theater Company, and others. He is excited to finally fill the role he's been waiting for, dad. He's grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with Haley and create some magic.

**Haley Sisler-Neuman** (writer, performer) is an actor, choreographer and teaching artist in the Twin Cities. She and her husband, Anthony, are the co-founders of Graceful Monsters Educational Theatre Collective, creating art with youth. She has performed onstage with multiple theatre companies including Fortune's Fool, Morris Park Players, Fearless Comedy, and Artistry. Thanks to Fortune's Fool for allowing her to share her story on this crazy adventure to motherhood. And a special thank you to Anthony, this journey wouldn't be nearly as exciting without you.

**Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay** (writer) is a Lao writer. CNN’s “United Shades of America” host W. Kamau Bell called her work “revolutionary.” Governor Mark Dayton recognized her with a “Lao Artists Heritage Month” Proclamation. She’s a recipient of a Sally Award for Initiative from the Ordway Center for Performing Arts which “recognizes bold new steps and strategic leadership undertaken by an individual . . . that will have a significant impact on strengthening Minnesota’s artistic/cultural community.” Her plays have been presented by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, Theater Mu, and elsewhere. She is currently a Mellon Foundation National Playwright in Residence at Theater Mu.

**Jeannie Lander** (performer) has appeared in numerous on-camera industrials and print media. Performances in theater include Mu Performing Arts: Fast Company, Into the Woods, Yellow Fever, Kung Fu Zombies vs Cannibals, Purple Cloud; Walking Shadow: 36 Views; Bedlam Theatre: 10-Minute Play Festival; nimbus: American Noise.
Heidi Garrido (writer, performer) is an avid theater patron who, more often than appearing onstage, takes part as an audience member and promoter, through her work as a professional photographer doing actors’ headshots and theater promotional materials (www.hmphotographymn.com). She was last seen in Have You Seen This Girl? (2018 Minnesota Fringe) and The Abortion Chronicles (2016 Minnesota Fringe). She would like to thank Ariel Leaf for the honor of participating in this show, and her husband and three kids for supporting her in it.

Daniel Pinkerton (writer, performer, co-producer) has been awarded fellowships from the National Endowment of the Arts the Jerome Foundation, and the Minnesota State Arts Board. His most recent production was The Lady with a Lap Dog (music by Robert Elhai; Fortune’s Fool, 2017). As a storyteller, he wrote and performed Grand Theft Autobiography (with songs by Gary Rue) at the 2016 Minnesota Fringe. As co-artistic director of Fortune’s Fool, Daniel has co-produced ten shows, the last nine with his co-artistic director and daughter, Ariel Pinkerton.

Ariel Pinkerton (writer, performer, lighting designer, co-producer) is a storyteller, actor, lighting designer and all around theatre ne’er-do-well. She is a company member of Wonderlust Productions and Freshwater Theatre, and co-artistic director of Fortune’s Fool Theatre. She has appeared in several of our shows, including YARRRH!, Stop Kiss, The Skriker, and Dog Act. She couldn’t have written her story about her daughter without hearing Amanda Palmer’s "A Mother's Confession," and recommends you do the same.

Suzie Juul (writer, performer) has extensive Twin Cities credits as a singing actor. Ordway: The Sound of Music, Pirates of Penzance, A Christmas Story; Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: Grease; Artistry: Candide, Mary Poppins; Really Spicy Opera Co.: The Last Five Years; Walking Shadow: Marie Antoinette; Frank Theatre: Threepenny Opera; Mu Performing Arts: A Little Night Music; Into the Woods; Little Shop of Horrors; Casting Spells Productions: Disenchanted; TV/Film: Whirl with Sparkhouse. Training: B.A. in Theatre, Augsburg University.

If you enjoyed this show, recommend it to your friends! They (and you) can watch To Breed, or Not to Breed --- Week One, Week Two, and Week Three --- streaming online at www.fortunesfooltheatre.org, from December 4 through January 31 2021, and it will be absolutely FREE to all. We would, however, be grateful if viewers would give a small donation if they are able and moved to do so. Thanks!
Ben Layne (director) is honored to be back working with Fortune's Fool again, even if the work is all done on Zoom. This is Ben's fifth production with the company, having previously directed Stop Kiss, A Slight Ache, The Skriker, and Dog Act. Ben is also co-artistic director of Freshwater Theatre with his incredible wife, Ruth Virkus. Ben is also Production Manager for Northern Starz Children’s Theatre in the Ramsey community. As a freelance director, Ben has worked with Northern Starz, The Phipps, Chameleon Theatre, Special When Lit Theatre, Devious Mechanics, and Swandive Theatre, among others.

Ruth Virkus (dramaturg) was thrilled to work with the authors of this wonderful collection of pieces. She’s a seasoned playwright, most recently of Immaculate Heart, produced by Freshwater Theatre, of which she is also co-artistic director alongside her husband Ben Layne. She is also on the advisory board of Fortune’s Fool. By day, she’s a property manager, which means many people expect her to fix the weather.

Aaron David Henderson (music) is a musician, poet, writer, knave, and a churl, in that order. He recently trudged out of the primordial clay of the Mississippi river, and is in the process of becoming civilized. This is his first foray into the world of mad thesbiands.

Andy Kedl (stage manager, lighting board operator; not pictured) is a freelance lighting designer, board operator, and technician who has worked at numerous Twin Cities theatres, large and small. His favorite gig is the Minnesota Fringe Festival, where he has been a venue technician for many years.

Bill Stiteler (videographer; not pictured) has worked as an actor, writer, and videographer for small theatres in the area. He lives in Minneapolis and has not been inside a theatre in over a year.

PRODUCERS' NOTE
The COVID-19 pandemic has made most traditional theatre impossible to do safely. Ariel, a veteran storyteller, came up with the idea of solo stories told to a mask-wearing audience of no more than 25% of the venue’s capacity. She also came up with the title and theme. In keeping with that theme, you might say that TO BREED, OR NOT TO BREED is our unexpected child that we love dearly and are presenting to the world. We want our “child” to be safe, we want you to be safe, and we hope you will once again find inspiration and humanity inside a theatre.

Dan & Ariel
For 14 years, Fortune’s Fool Theatre has been dedicated to exposing Twin Cities audiences to unfamiliar theatrical works, with an emphasis on Minnesota writers. With imagination and verve, we produce world premieres and plays that are rarely performed in the Twin Cities.

FORTUNE’S FOOL THEATRE
Daniel Pinkerton & Ariel Pinkerton, co-artistic directors
Jane Johnston, accountant

THE FORTUNE’S FOOL ADVISORY BOARD

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Wendy Knox (artistic director, Frank Theatre, director)
Jane Johnston (ex officio)
Erin McGonagle (editor and grant writer at the University of Minnesota)
Ruth Virkus (co-artistic director, Freshwater Theatre, playwright)

In Memoriam: Mr. Jake (2003-2016, founding theatre cat)

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Fortune’s Fool Theatre depends on the generosity of its donors, particularly in this new pandemic world. We thank those who supported us in 2020:

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