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 2
“Blood Knot”  
written and performed by Linda Sue Anderson & Tim Hammett

“Riding with the Tide”  
written and performed by Doc Woods

“Nothing Traditional Here!”  
written and performed by David Coral and Vicki Knight

“The Poem”  
written and performed by Kelli Gore Raney

“The Things I Didn’t Carry”  
written and performed by Eli Effinger-Weintraub

“SLAMM”  
written and performed by Jean Wolff

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
Linda Sue Anderson (writer, performer) is a local actor with many credits, among them the Fortune’s Fool production of *Stop Kiss*. She never imagined she would write and perform a storytelling piece with her husband. 2020 – strange days indeed.

Tim Hammet (writer, performer) made his acting debut as the lead billy goat in Miss Fisher’s first grade class production of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* at Shoesmith Elementary School in Chicago. The experience left him deeply scarred (don’t ask). Since then he had assiduously avoided the stage until American Civic Forum’s debut of *Colluded - The Testimony of Carter Page* at the Phoenix Theater in 2019. This experience left him stirred, not shaken. His role as himself in this production of *To Breed or Not to Breed* will be the most challenging yet. A graduate of the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor’s Degree in Philosophy, he is, believe it or not, gainfully employed and has never had to ask “you want fries with that?”

Doc Woods (writer, performer) has appeared with companies all over the Twin Cities. He is excited to partner with Fortune’s Fool Theater and fellow actors for this storytelling event. I hope you listen with an open heart and mind to the experiences we are blessed to share with you regarding children. Enjoy our stories!

David Coral (writer, performer) is pleased to be on stage again during this crazy time. Thank you for joining us! Prior to March, David had been a busy actor and director since his arrival in Minneapolis in 1996. He has worked with Park Square, Minnesota Jewish Theatre, Theatre in the Round, Walking Shadow, Torch Theatre, Children’s Theatre Company, and Gremlin, and played four seasons with The Great River Shakespeare Festival. He has twice received a year’s best supporting actor nod for his work in the Twin Cities. Favorite roles include Joe Keller in “All My Sons” at Artistry, Big Daddy in “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof” at Pioneer Place on 5th, and Ben in “Death of a Salesman” at Yellow Tree Theatre. David also is a freelance film, commercial and voice-over talent.

Vicki Knight (writer, performer) is a Minnesota-born, middle aged, suburban mom of two sons, 16 and 20, whom she raised with PJ, her partner of about 30 years. She counts herself lucky to have shared a unique parenting style with their best friends, and the boys' fathers, David and Bobbie, through thick and thin for the last couple of decades. They have had lots of adventures together and nothing makes her happier!
Kelli Gorr Raney (writer, performer) is a Twin Cities native who has been on stage dancing, acting and singing since she was five. She’s acted for multiple community and professional Twin Cities theatres over the years and spent 14 years on the air in radio in St. Cloud. Kelli has a career in cybersecurity working for Cargill and lives with her husband, Joel, two dogs, and a cat in St. Paul.

Eli Effinger-Weintraub (writer, performer) is a playwright/essayist/performer. You may have seen them in Freshwater Theatre’s 2019 anthology show Eventually, Epiphany. Gadfly Theatre Productions, Otherworld Theatre, Theatre Unbound, Little Lifeboats, Buffalo United Artists, Left Coast Theatre, StageQ, and the Midwest Dramatists Center have given their work life. Eli is an agender anxieteur, a Reclaiming naturalist, a core team member of the Minnesota Threshold Network, an armchair mycologist. Eli delights in the timelessness and fleetingness of theater. They live in Minneapolis with their spouse, artist/designer Leora Effinger-Weintraub, and three water buffalo disguised as cats. http://eli.tangleroot.net

Jean Wolff (writer, performer) has been in the Twin Cities since 2001 and has appeared with many companies including Theater in the Round, Park Square, Walking Shadow, and Joking Apart. She is also an Audio Describer and a director. This is her first time working with Fortune’s Fool. She’s extremely grateful to Ariel and Dan for the opportunity to work during this insane year, and to her son, without whom she wouldn’t be here.

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!
ARTISTIC STAFF

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 madthesians.

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

Chris Carlson (lawyer, Actors’ Equity member)
Roy Close (playwright, grant writer and fundraiser emeritus for Artspace)
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:

Anonymous (3)
Linda Sue Anderson
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