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 3
“I Want a Goddamn Cloak”  
written and performed by Jen Scott

“The Family You Choose”  
written and performed by Josh Cragun

“Following Your Bliss and Avoiding Other People’s”  
written and performed by Matt Kessen

“My Pandemic Pregnancy”  
written and performed by Jenna Papke

“Hole”  
written and performed by Ariel Pinkerton

“The Duckling List”  
written and performed by Duck Washington

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, Madeline Wall,  
Jane Johnston
WEEK THREE ARTISTS

Jen Scott (writer, performer) is a Twin Cities based actor, improviser, playwright, teacher, and sometime musician. She’s been an artist-in-residence at Pillsbury House + Theater, and teaches for HUGE Theater, Children’s Theatre Company, Park Square Theatre, COMPAS, and others. Recent on-stage credits include work with Uprising Theatre, HUGE Theater, Hennepin Theater Trust, Table Salt Productions, Red Eye Theater, Four Humors Theater, and others.

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?”

Josh Cragun (writer, performer) fell into the company of theater artists at a young and impressionable age, and fortunately, has never been quite the same. This led to a series of questionable decisions, one of which took place in 2001 when he formed nimbus theatre with a fellow writer known as Cockroach. He has been creating new theater with the company ever since, which is now renowned for the collaborative creation of original work. He has served as playwright for thirteen original works for the company. He has also directed, designed video, costumes, properties, and sets for nimbus.

Matt Kessen (writer, performer) is a writer, performer, producer, dramaturg, and space detective who has worked with Comedy Suitcase, Fearless Comedy Productions, the Winding Sheet Outfit, and all sorts of people like that. He is best known for his solo series of comedy monster lectures, “Reverend Matt’s Monster Science,” which has appeared at theaters, museums, conventions, and libraries throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin. He has a pet leopard gecko called Linus.
Jenna Papke (writer, performer; she/her) is primarily a producer. She runs Phoenix Theater along with Eric Cohen. In her free time, she directs. Usually, Jenna is either self-producing with Glowing Ember or with Smartmouth Comedy, for whom she also acts as the Managing Director. Previous writing credits include *Love is Never a Lie* and, co-written with Mickaylee Shaughnessy and Rob Ward, the Fringe shows *Full Metal Rabbit* and *Waiting for Hugs*. Her baby is due in early March.

Duck Washington (writer, performer) has been a theatrical artist working in the Twin Cities for over 20 years. He is an actor, director, designer, playwright, producer, and improviser. He is a member of Blackout Improv, The Theater of Public Policy and Vilification Tennis. He sits on the board of directors for the Twin Cities Horror Festival, Fearless Comedy Productions, and Rinky Dink Operations. Duck also produces shows with The Encyclopedia Show and with his own company, Rogues Gallery Arts. Some other companies Duck has worked with include The Guthrie, Park Square, Walking Shadow, Theater in the Round, Chameleon Theater Circle, Freshwater, HUGE, the Cromulent Shakespeare Company, and the Brave New Workshop.

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.

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](http://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 thesbiains.

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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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:

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