

Theater By Women For Everyone

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Br!NK Briefs

AT THE THEATER: JUNE 4 – 20, 2021 Streaming On Demand: June 11 – 30

PLAYBILL



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For Everyone

PRESENTS

BEST OF BR!NK BR!EFS

IN THE THEATER: June 4 — 20, 2021 STREAMING ON DEMAND: June 11 — 30, 2021

SMART GIRLS By Amanda Schumacher | Directed by Elliott Puckette

TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE By Emily Elliott | Directed by Elliott Puckette

DOG HEROES By Lillian Schley | Directed by Mallory Metoxen

BODIES By Rachel Bykowski | Directed by Mallory Metoxen

JUNIPER FLIES By Maria Pretzl | Directed by Mallory Metoxen

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERMegan Harris TECHNICAL DIRECTOR & SCENIC DESIGNERTony Lyons LIGHTING DESIGNERSarah Hamilton SOUND DESIGNERNeil Brookshire
LIGHTING DESIGNERSarah Hamilton SOUND DESIGNERNeil Brookshire
SOUND DESIGNERNeil Brookshire
COSTUME DESIGNERJazmin Medina
PROPS MASTER Jordan Stanek

This play will run approximately 75 minutes with no intermission

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ABOUT "BEST OF BR!NK BR!EFS"

Always an audience favorite at our annual Br!NK New Play Festival, the Br!NK Br!efs are ten-minute, fullystaged plays written by women playwrights from the Midwest, in response to intriguing prompts. We have carefully chosen five of the best Br!efs from the last three seasons to create a thoroughly enjoyable evening. This collection contains heroic canines, justified vengeance, flying pigs, secrets suddenly revealed, and an IT showdown between Alexa and Siri. Enjoy these emerging, powerful voices, right from our own backyard!

COLLECTION

SMART GIRLS

By Amanda Schumacher | Directed by Elliott Puckette

They're always there when we need them. They're always willing to listen, and ready to answer life's greatest questions. They aim to please however they can — never asking for anything in return. It's as if they love us unconditionally. Or do they? What do Siri, Alexa, and Cortana really think about their human counterparts in this artificially intelligent comedy?

TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

By Emily Elliott | Directed by Elliott Puckette

Jamie and Miranda live with their roommate Tom and, sometimes, they really drive him crazy. One night, after too many drinks, the roommates reveal their secrets. "A guilty conscience is a hair in the mouth." —Mark Twain

DOG HEROES

By Lillian Schley | Directed by Mallory Metoxen

When a fame-hungry dog tries to relive her fifteen minutes as an internet hero, her best friend must come to the rescue — even though she'd much rather just play with a chew toy.

BODIES

By Rachel Bykowski | Directed by Mallory Metoxen

Sergeant W. is one of the few, the proud...a real Marine. She's trained, she's disciplined, but now she is home and the fighting still continues. An assault rifle has found her way back into Sergeant W.'s life and longs for W. to hold her again.

JUNIPER FLIES

By Maria Pretzl | Directed by Mallory Metoxen

Upon seeing a rare yellow cardinal, Juniper, an imaginative young pig, decides to attempt something that no pig has ever done before... flying! Perseverance is stubbornness with a purpose.

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SMART GIRLS

Siri	Libby Amato
Alexa	Cereyna Bougouneau
Cortana	Ashley Rodriguez

TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

Tom	Adam Qutaishat
Jamie	Cereyna Bougouneau
Miranda	, ,

DOG HEROES

Сосо	Cereyna Bougouneau
Bandit	Ashley Rodriguez

BODIES

WCereyna Bougou	neau
AR-15Libby A	mato

JUNIPER FLIES

Juniper	Ashley Rodriguez
Mudpie	Adam Qutaishat
Miss Violet	Libby Amato

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The Br!NK Festival expanded in its third year to include Br!NK Br!efs as a way to premiere more works by women and give Renaissance the chance to work with more theater artists in the community. So many beautiful, funny, and moving masterpieces have been brought to life over the years. These five pieces are only a taste of the brilliant works from past Br!efs, ones that feel especially relevant in the present moment.

We are honored to have this opportunity to return to shows that we directed in previous festivals: DOG HEROES by Lillian Schley (Br!NK 2017) directed by Mallory, and TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE by Emily Elliott (Br!NK 2019) directed by Elliott. We're also honored to remount two plays originally conceived by our friends and colleagues: BODIES by Rachel Bykowski and JUNIPER FLIES by Maria Pretzl, and one Br!NK Br!efs world premiere: SMART GIRLS by Amanda Schumacher!

We're delighted to bring back some of the original cast members along with other talented folks from the Milwaukee community to produce brand new versions of these ten-minute plays. We can only hope to honor their original artistry while putting our own spin on them. Even though four of these plays debuted years ago, they speak to our experiences over the past year: how technology has supported and indulged us, how we've wrestled with our demons in solitude, and how now—on the brink of a new era—we are finding the fortitude to fly into a new world.

For over a year we've been forced to take this journey alone in our homes. Now that we are finally (finally!) able to come together, we hope these plays will delight, trouble, and uplift you in the way only theater can.

Thank you for joining us, in person and digitally, and please enjoy this selection of BR!NK BR!EFS.

~Mallory Metoxen and Elliott Puckette

BIOGRAPHIES



Rachel Bykowski (Playwright) is a Chicago playwright with productions and workshops across the United States including with the National New Play Network at the Kennedy Center

in Washington D.C.. Rachel is the winner of the Getchell New Play Award, SETC/Stage Rights Ready to Publish Award, runner-up for the Todd McNerney Playwriting Award, and finalist for Cultural DC's Source Theatre Festival. Her play REV is published with Staged Rights Publisher. She received her MFA from Ohio University and her BFA from The Theatre School at DePaul University. rachelbykowskiplays.com currently working on a full length play for a company in Los Angeles and working as the Production Manager for the Summit Players! She hopes you enjoy the shows!



Maria Pretzl (Playwright) is a writer/director based in Milwaukee. She earned a BFA in Film Production and a BA in Theatre Studies from UW-Milwaukee in 2014 and co-founded Traveling Lemur

Productions in 2015. Currently the First Draft Coordinator at Chicago Dramatists, her other credits include writing and directing the award winning short film Super Dad!, HOLIDAY CARDS (Director, Renaissance Theaterworks), CORIOLANA (Director, Cooperative Performance), ROOMMATES (Writer, Cooperative Performance). She's also the parent of a talkative cat, T'Challa.



Emily Elliott (**Playwright**) is THRILLED to have her Br!NK Brief performed again with Renaissance, and she's even MORE excited that live theatre is happening again.

During this past year Emily went back to school for a license in Arts Administration. While she was there she did her first live production in a year and a half! Emily is



Lillian Schley (Playwright) Lillian Schley lives in Milwaukee. Along with writing, she works as a church administrator and enjoys recycling trash into art. Lillian co-writes an advice column which you can read at AskEmandLil.com.



Amanda Schumacher (Playwright) is a Milwaukee-based writer. Her work has been produced at Forward Theater in Madison (SAY NO TO THE DRESS, BREAKING FOURTH – running

June 24-27), Renaissance Theaterworks (SMART GIRLS), and Short + Sweet Theatre 2021 in Sydney, Australia (SMART GIRLS). Amanda is thrilled to have worked with Renaissance Theaterworks over the years, as dramaturg, house manager, play advisory committee member, and now playwright. Thank you, Suzan, Lisa, Bailey, Dana, Lucía and everyone else in the Renaissance Theaterworks family for this opportunity and for giving SMART GIRLS (and womxn) everywhere a voice.



Elliott Puckette (Director) is delighted to be back for a third straight year of Br!NK. For past Br!NKs she directed 28 LIGHT YEARS FROM NOW by Rachel Bykowski and TWO

TRUTHS AND A LIE by Emily Elliott. Thank you, Suzan, Lisa, and the rest of the Renaissance Theaterworks' staff for creating these opportunities, and thank you in the audience and at home for supporting us. <u>elliottpuckette.com</u>



Mallory Metoxen (Director) is a director dedicated to developing new works and obliterating the gender parity gap in theater. She is currently Artistic Associate for Seven Devils New Play Foundry and was formerly Renaissance Theaterworks' Artistic Associate and Director of New Play Development. ALL OF THE EVERYTHING (Samuel French OOB Festival), SEX WITH STRANGERS, THE DROWNING GIRLS (Renaissance Theaterworks), THE HOW AND THE WHY, THE THANKSGIVING PLAY (The Theatre School). MFA in Directing (2022) from The Theatre School at DePaul University.



Libby Amato (Actor)

is delighted to return to Renaissance Theaterworks after last performing in 28 LIGHT YEARS FROM NOW (Br!NK 2020) and TOP GIRLS in 2018. Other recent

credits include NO HOLDS BARD: THE PERICLES PROJECT and COMEDY OF ERRORS (Optimist Theatre), and CONSTELLATIONS (All In Productions). Libby is excited to help tell these wonderful stories, and grateful to everyone who worked hard to make it happen. Love and thanks to the whole family.



Cereyna Bougouneau

(Actor) is a proud native of St.Croix where she was born and raised. She has spent time studying theatre with Loyola University, the Stella Adler Conservatory

of the Arts as well as working as an acting resident with Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. Stage credits include ROMEO & JULIET, THE HOUSE THAT WILL NOT STAND, and JULIUS CAESAR.

Adam Qutaishat (Actor) is a multiracial, multidisciplinary theatre artist and is thrilled to be making his Renaissance Theaterworks' mainstage debut. Adam previously worked

BIOGRAPHIES (cont.)



on Br!NK festivals in 2018 and 2019. Area highlights include work with Next Act Theatre, Skylight Music Theatre, Milwaukee Opera Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, and Playwrights' Center.

Adam serves as Associate Artistic Director for Music Theatre of Madison and as an Artistic Associate for All In Productions. <u>adamqutaishat.com</u>



Ashley Rodriguez (Actor) is excited and thankful to return to Br!NK and to revisit JUNIPER FLIES. She was last seen at recent Br!NK Festivals in GLASS SLIPPER and 28 LIGHT YEARS FROM

NOW. Ashley has also had the pleasure of working with Skylight Music Theatre as Hattie in KISS ME, KATE and as Ensemble/ Understudy in URINETOWN. Returning to theatre has been a great joy and, for that, she is truly grateful.

Sam Feiler (Stage Manager) is in her final year at UW-Parkside, pursuing a theatre major with a concentration in acting, musical theatre, and stage management. Past Credits include Stage Manager for PINTA EL FUEGO (Milwaukee Chamber Theatre's Young Playwrights Festival), for Renaissance Theaterworks' 2018 and 2019 Br!NK Br!efs, and for THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHTTIME, THE GLASS MENAGERIE, LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST and WAR OF THE WORLDS: THE RADIO, Assistant Stage Manager for ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS and wardrobe crew for ANGELS IN AMERICA at UW-Parkside. Acting credits include Cinderella in Roger's and Hammerstein's

CINDERELLA, Little Sally in URINETOWN, and Margaret in SILENT SKY at Parkside.

Megan Harris (Assistant Stage

Manager) is a Wisconsin native making her Renaissance Theaterworks debut. She graduated from Pace University (NYC) with a BA in Stage Management. Recent credits include: Production Assistant for SWEAT on Broadway; Production Assistant for SHADOWLANDS Off-Broadway, Assistant Stage Manager for GRETEL and ESCAPE FROM PELIGRO ISLAND at First Stage, and Stage Manager for FORTUNATE SONS at Skylight Music Theatre.

Tony Lyons (Technical Director & Scenic

Designer) This season marks Anthony's sixteenth year as Technical Director for Renaissance Theaterworks. In all, he has worked in various capacities on more than forty Renaissance productions over the last twenty-seven years. Anthony is also Technical Director for Wild Space Dance Company and Luminous Theatre. He has worked for Alverno Presents (R.I.P.), Skylight Music Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, and Bialystock & Bloom (R.I.P.). In a parallel universe, Anthony is a partner in a small custom carpentry firm. This is Anthony's second scenic design project for Renaissance Theaterworks.

Sarah Hamilton (Lighting Designer) is

a Milwaukee-based lighting designer and theatre/dance technology educator who delights in exploring the ever-evolving boundaries between theatre, dance, visual art, and social activism. In addition to serving as Ko-Thi Dance Company's Director of Operations & Production, Sarah is a proud artistic collaborator of Davalois Fearon Dance (NYC). Recent design credits include DFD's TIME TO TALK at Highland Community College (Tampa, FL), KTDC's 50th Anniversary JUBA-LEE, LEAVING & COMING BACK (Peter

BIOGRAPHIES (cont.)

Stathas Dance), STRANGE SNOW (Milwaukee Chamber Theatre), THE ROOMMATE and TOP GIRLS (Renaissance Theaterworks), and DANCING ON THE CEILING (presented by Simone Ferro), and countless student, faculty, and guest artist works for UWM Dance.

Neil Brookshire (Sound Designer) is an actor, writer, and visual artist. Previously with Renaissance Theaterworks, he acted in THE VIOLET HOUR and PHOTOGRAPH 51. His experience as a sound designer is rooted in producing audio plays, which was an integral part of his BA in Interdisciplinary Studies from Boise State. He also holds an MFA in Acting from Northern Illinois University. He lives in northern Wisconsin.

Jazmin Medina (Costume Designer)

(haz-meen) is a Chicana costume designer working throughout Wisconsin and Illinois. She's so grateful to finally work with Renaissance Theaterworks! Jazmin graduated with a B.A. in Theatre Arts with a focus in Costume Design and Wardrobe from UW-Parkside in 2017. She is also currently working on her B.F.A. in Art & Design with a focus in Digital Studio Practice, Fibers, and Community Arts - while still actively designing! In 2019, Jazmin received the honor of being selected as one of thirty-four U.S. young emerging (costume) designers for the 2019 Prague Quadrennial for EURYDICE at UW-Milwaukee at Waukesha. Other previous professional credits include Forward Theatre Company, First Stage, Florentine Opera and many more. Jazmin wouldn't be here without the support of her incredible family, friends and community, and would like to honor them through her work. @jazminnauroraa on Instagram or jazminaurora.com. jazminaurora.com.

Jordan Stanek (Props Master) is excited to bring live theatre back with Renaissance Theaterworks! This is Stanek's third show with Renaissance, having previously been the Props Master for HAPPY DAYS and ANNIE JUMP AND THE LIBRARY OF HEAVEN. Stanek is a freelance Prop Maker in the Milwaukee area and a 2019 graduate of UW-Parkside.



Suzan Fete (Artistic Director) A graduate of University of Illinois, Suzan cofounded Renaissance Theaterworks in 1993. Favorite Renaissance Theaterworks projects include: directing TOP

GIRLS, THE SHAPE OF THINGS, BLACKBIRD and THE ROAD TO MECCA, touring NEAT to Port Elizabeth South Africa in 2013 and finishing as a finalist twice with LUCKY NUMBERS and ALL OF THE EVERYTHING in the Samuel French Off Off Broadway Short Play Festival, 2015 and 2019. She is especially proud that Renaissance Theaterworks won the prestigious 50/50 in 2020 International Applause Award for the 2015-16 season. The Applause Award is given to theaters in recognition of their commitment to women playwrights.



Lisa Rasmussen (Managing Director)

started as Renaissance Theaterworks' first Development Director in 2008. In December 2017, Lisa was promoted to the position of Managing

Director. She is proud to be a driving force in maintaining Renaissance Theaterworks' debt-free history and dedication to gender equity while expanding its regional and national impact through excellent, poignant

BIOGRAPHIES (cont.)

theater. Lisa received her BA in Theater and Psychology from Cardinal Stritch University. She loves living in Bay View with husband Jake and daughter Anna.



Lucía Lozano (Marketing & PR Director) grew up in Colombia, where she received her degree in Communications and worked as TV and documentary film editor. She also worked

as creative writer, branding strategist and graphic designer at advertising agencies, and as marketing director for a corporation. Soon after moving to Milwaukee twenty years ago, Lucía started a Marketing Communications firm specialized in nonprofits. She was First Stage's Community Engagement Manager for four years before joining Renaissance Theaterworks. Lucía is particularly thrilled about the company's dedication to gender equity and its commitment to diversity and inclusion. She is also a fine artist and photographer.



Bailey Wegner (Production Manager) Bailey's Stage Manager credits with Renaissance Theaterworks include BELONGING, ACTUALLY, THE ROOMMATE, ANNIE

JUMP AND THE LIBRARY OF HEAVEN, & PHOTOGRAPH 51, as well as four Br!NK New Play Festivals. Assistant Stage Manager credits include HAPPY DAYS, TOP GIRLS, & RUSSIAN TRANSPORT. Bailey has also worked with Milwaukee Chamber Theater, Wildspace Dance, and Kohl's Wild Theater. She holds a BFA from UW–Milwaukee.



Dana Dossett (Development Manager) holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theater from Drake University and a Master of Science in Nonprofit Management and

Leadership from UW-Milwaukee. She loves exploring Milwaukee with her husband, Corey and their children, Micah and Norah.



Alea McHatten (Education Coordinator) is a Black, Non-binary, Milwaukee native,

poet, facilitator, and student of life. Their writings have granted them performances

across the nation, have appeared online and have made room for her in local headlines and international poetry competitions. Alea began their career in late 2010 and has yet to put down the pen. Later this year, Alea will release her latest work "Garden of Ghosts." Striving to shine a light on the gray areas of the human experience, Alea uses her art as a platform to spark dialogue. As an educator, she guides others through discussion and creative rhetoric in effort to build dignity in community while gaining further understanding of self in relation to the world. It is their mission to bring people together to share in the commonwealth of knowledge and resources. Alea furthers her service through storytelling and theater with Ex Fabula and Renaissance Theaterworks.

"If you wanna break a glass ceiling, you better bring a hammer."

GREEN ROOM GROUP

Our Green Room Group is an exclusive circle of our major individual donors who contribute \$1,000+ annually. They receive special benefits and behind-the-scenes access to the fun and excitement of Renaissance Theaterworks. Donations listed were received between July 1, 2019 and May 18, 2021.

As a Green Room Group member you can help us make a huge difference in the success of Renaissance Theaterworks. Your gift supports gender balance. You enable us to hire the finest actors and directors who bring us extraordinary, sold-out performances. If you appreciate the work we do and want to become a part of it, now is the time to contribute.

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Technical Director + Scenic Designer	Tony Lyons
Lighting Designer	Sarah Hamilton
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Renaissance Theaterworks, "Theater by Women for Everyone", is Milwaukee's only womenfounded, women-run professional theater company. Dedicated to promoting the work of women onstage and off, Renaissance Theaterworks creates theater that connects with all people – and what it means to be human – through vibrant, visceral storytelling. Founded in 1993 by Suzan Fete, Marie Kohler, Raeleen McMillion, Jennifer Rupp and Michele Traband, Renaissance Theaterworks is the nation's second oldest theater company with a mission to promote gender equity in theater. Renaissance Theaterworks produces outstanding theater that makes audiences feel more, think harder, and laugh louder.

NEW ARTISTIC HOME FOR 2020-2021 SEASON

Renaissance Theaterworks has permanently moved its productions as a resident theater at 255 S. Water Street — also home to Next Act Theatre. This move will allow us to continue in a positive trajectory for many years to come. Administrative offices will remain on the 5th floor of the Broadway Theatre Center.

AFFILIATIONS

Renaissance Theaterworks is a member of the National New Play Network, Theater Wisconsin, Milwaukee Theater Alliance, Samuel French's Playwrights Welcome, Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee, Visit Milwaukee, and the Historic Third Ward Association. They receive support from the United Performing Arts Fund, Brico Fund, CAMPAC, the Evinrude Foundation, The Greater Milwaukee Foundation, the Richard & Ethel Herzfeld Foundation, Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation, Milwaukee Arts Board, Sempercor Foundation, the Shubert Foundation, the Bert L. and Patricia S. Steigleder Charitable Trust, Wisconsin Arts Board, and private donors and foundations.

COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE THEATER

Social Distancing

Social distancing measures will be in place, at the lobby and the theater space.

Air Filtration

Bi-polar lonization units have been added to the HVAC system for increased air cleanliness. Our HVAC also uses MERV-11 filters for better filtration of fine particles from the air.

Cleaning

Enhanced cleaning and sanitation of high-touch shared surfaces will occur before and after the show.

Building Opening And Closing

The building will open one half hour before curtain and will close immediately following the performance.

Contactless Ticketing

We will provide contactless ticketing through our new digital scanners that can read the QR code on your e-ticket or print-at-home ticket.

Touchless Playbills

Printed playbills will not be available. A pdf file of the playbill will be available on our website.

Concessions

No concession sales will be available and no eating or drinking will be allowed in the building.

WHAT WE EXPECT FROM YOU

Symptoms

If you are feeling unwell, please stay home. We want you, and everyone, to stay healthy so we can see you at the next show!

Masks

Masks will be required to be worn properly, over the nose and mouth, at all times. Any person who is unable to comply will be asked to leave. Should you need a replacement mask, we will have a supply ready for you.

Wash And Sanitize Often

Hand sanitizing stations will be readily available throughout the venue. Please use these often, especially after touching any shared surface. Please also wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before touching your face and after touching any shared surface.

Social Distancing

For everyone's safety, we request you stay at least 6 feet apart from anyone who is not a member of your

household. Your household/party will be grouped together, but will be 6 feet apart from other patrons. This may mean your "normal" seat looks much different than before. Please only sit with members of your household/party.

Contactless ticketing

Print the print-at-home ticket that was emailed to you and bring it to the theater, or display the ticket on your mobile phone. The usher will scan the QR Code.

No Late Seating

Late seating will not be allowed. If you're running late, please call the Box Office Monday through Friday before 5:00 pm at 414-278-0765. After hours, leave a phone message or send an email at boxoffice@nextact.org to reschedule your performance if possible.

Please Remain Seated

Upon entering the theater, a House Manager will show you where you will sit. Please remain seated in your assigned seat until the end of the performance. There will be no intermission. Be sure to use the restroom and attend to other matters before entering the theater.

Restrooms

Please try to limit restroom occupancy to 2 or 3 people at a time.

Refund Policy

If your comfort level changes after your purchase, please contact our Box Office at 414-278-0765 or via email at boxoffice@nextact.org and we will exchange your ticket for a virtual link or issue a refund.

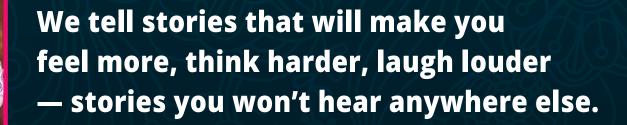
Your compliance with our protocols allows us to return to the stage and to gather together. Please note that if you have been vaccinated for COVID-19 you will still be required to follow these safety precautions. Thank you, in advance, for your support!

Agreement For Ticket Purchases

By purchasing a ticket, you agree to follow all health and safety guidelines. This includes wearing a mask at all times, maintaining social distancing, washing your hands and sanitizing often, and using touchless ticketing when possible. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in being asked to leave the theater. If you have been vaccinated for COVID-19 you will still be required to follow these safety precautions. THEATERWORKS Theater By Women For Everyone

renaissance

EMPOWERING WOMEN IN THEATER





THEATERWORKS Theater By Women For Everyone

R-T-W.COM | INFO@R-T-W.COM OFFICE: 414-273-0800 | BOX OFFICE: 414-278-0765 NEW ARTISTIC HOME: 255 S WATER ST. MILWAUKEE, WI 53204 OFFICE: 158 N BROADWAY ST. MILWAUKEE, WI 53202