



PEGASUS THEATRE *presents*

**BIG
MOUTH
THUNDER
THIGHS**
A SOLO VAUDEVILLE

WRITTEN BY

BESS WELDEN

DIRECTED BY

REIS MYERS MCCORMICK

June 7 through 22 at the Bath House Cultural Center

2024 SEASON

PEGASUS THEATRE presents

BIG MOUTH THUNDER THIGHS

A SOLO VAUDEVILLE

written by **BESS WELDEN**

directed by **REIS MYERS MCCORMICK**

stage manager **BOBBY SELAH**

prop designers **TRINITY GARDNER** and **SHEILA D. ROSE**

lighting designer **COOPER MITCHELL**

costume designer **MICHAEL ROBINSON**

sound designer **LOWELL SARGEANT**

set designer **D. AIDAN WRIGHT**

graphic artist **JOHN HARVEY**

artists' advocate **SHEILA D. ROSE**

social media consultant **SAMANTHA CALATOZZO COBB**

light and sound operator **BOBBY SELAH**

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Kurt Kleinmann

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Barbara Weinberger

MANAGING DIRECTOR

John Harvey

June 7 through 22, 2024, at the Bath House Cultural Center

521 E. Lawther Drive • Dallas, Texas 75218

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CAST of CHARACTERS

Woman.....Shauna Holloway
Woman Understudy Destiny Harris

DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

The thing I love best about Bess Welden's personal transformation odyssey is her authenticity. In the space of one act, she wastes no time in getting vulnerable so that we can. (Bonus: we get to laugh along the way!) And we come out on the other side edified and entertained, even if not completely healed. Woven into the narrative is an Inuit folktale that gives universal context to one woman's pain. Bess believes that folktales are a place where the disenfranchised can find themselves, as The Woman does in the tale of Sedna.

The play takes place right in the center of her real life — her kitchen to be exact — where her imagination runs wild, mingling elements of whimsy with angst and epiphany in an indeterminate play space.

The catalyst for all the fuss is that voice. You know the one. In The Woman's reality we call her Skinny Bitch, or SB for short. She's an award-winning Inner Critic who has dogged our heroine about her weight for her whole life. Well, it's reckoning day!

Tell your own Inner Critic to take a hike, then sit back and enjoy the Southwest premiere of *Big Mouth Thunder Thighs, A Solo Vaudeville!*

Reis Myers McCormick
Dallas, Texas

Special Thanks

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PEGASUS THEATRE

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MEET THE CAST

DESTINY HARRIS (Understudy/Woman) is EXCITED to be working with Reis again after training with her at KD Conservatory in this Unpredictable but Beautiful show. She is represented by Linda McAlister Talent. Previous roles include *Dallas Shakespeare Educational Tours* (Modern Juliet/ Hermia). Destiny will be training with the Globe Theater in the fall. She would also like to thank Bobby Selah, Sheila R. Rose, Barbara and Kurt, and of course the WOMAN: Shauna Holloway.

SHAUNA HOLLOWAY (Woman) wants to thank Reis, Kurt, and Barb for this opportunity, Bess Welden for sharing her story, Bobby and Sheila for their support, and Destiny Harris for being a fantastic castmate. Favorite roles include Olivia Keegan in *Things My Mother Taught Me* (Rover Dramawerks), Patty Waxend in *Captain Blood*, Sunny Polito in *Captain Phantasm vs. the Nefarious Dr. Noir* (Pocket Sandwich), Wicked Witch of the West in *The Wizard of Oz* (C.O.R.P), and she'll be playing Dr. Kelly Settler in *Triassic Trek* later this summer (Rooftop Productions). She is also directing *Sweeney Todd: Fiend of Fleet Street* (Pocket Sandwich) this fall.

SB is an award-winning Inner Critic whose long, illustrious career spans the globe over eons. Selected credits include *Napoleon*: "You're pathetic. Short, fat, and what's up with that hat? Nobody likes the French. You call yourself a General? Get that hand out of your jacket. Weakling. And, for pity's sake, take a bath! Geez. What does Josephine see in you?" *The Dinosaurs*: "You're too big, too loud, and your breath stinks. Bullies. You think you own the place? Hear this — Nothing lasts forever!" *Elvis*: "Go ahead! Eat another peanut butter and baloney sandwich! No one cares! You think anyone will remember you?" Check out her new book, *Told Ya So! Motivation Through the Ages* at Amazon books.

She is open to signing with an agent; if you are interested, please submit your information after the show.

MEET THE DIRECTOR AND THE PLAYWRIGHT

REIS MYERS MCCORMICK (Director) decided to become an actress after her first professional acting gig, which actually happened by accident as she was completing a BA in the Humanities at UT Austin in 1980. It was Sondheim's *Anyone Can Whistle*, a miserable experience fraught with technical nightmares and emotional histrionics which left her wanting ... more? Meanwhile, up in Dallas, Pegasus Theatre was incubating, and when she arrived on the scene, it was love at first sight! Lots of fun Kurt-and-

Barb comedy projects later, here we are. Over the last forty years Reis has expanded her repertoire beyond the theater to include commercial and corporate broadcast, TV series, film, voice-over, publishing (Remmybooks.com), screenwriting (*Cowboys of Color*), completing her Groundlings training with Lone Star Comedy, and raising a family. She discovered a knack for teaching at Dallas Theater Center during her internship there, and has been doing so ever since, mostly at KD Conservatory College of Film & Dramatic Arts. She remains a SAG-AFTRA board member (DFW Local), and a lifelong member of Women in Film, Dallas, having proudly served as President in 2015. Reis hopes you will invite your Inner Critic to wait for you in the lobby. Or better yet, go jump in the lake! Enjoy the show!

BESS WELDEN (Playwright) is an award-winning theater artist living and creating in her adopted home state of Maine. She spent 2022 as a National Arts Strategies Creative Community Fellow for her work at the intersection of art-making and social change. She served as the 2024 Playwright-in-Residence for the Maine Playwrights Festival, and recently created a commission for the *Lives Eliminated, Dreams Illuminated* project, an interdisciplinary visual art, music, and theater exhibition honoring girls and young women who died in the Holocaust. She is the Founder/Core Artist of Death Wings Project (www.deathwingsproject.org)

Bess' play *Madeleines* won the 2022 National Jewish Playwriting Contest and was a finalist for the Bay Area Playwrights Festival. *Madeleines* has been developed in New York with Jewish Plays Project, in Palo Alto with TheaterWorks Silicon Valley, in Indiana with the Jewish Theatre of Bloomington, in West Hartford, CT with Playhouse on Park, and with Portland Stage as part of the Little Festival of the Unexpected. *Madeleines* will make its world premiere at Portland Stage in 2025.

Her play with songs, *Death Wings*, won the 2020 Maine State prize of the Clauder Competition for New England Playwrights and was produced in Maine by Dramatic Repertory Company, the Theater Project, and Meetinghouse Arts with major support from the New England Foundation for the Arts and the Maine Arts Commission. *Death Wings* was a 2020 semi-finalist for the prestigious O'Neill New Play Conference and was workshopped with Fresh Ink Theatre at Boston Center for the Arts.

Her play *Refuge Malja*, winner of the Tel Aviv Jewish Plays Contest and a finalist in the 2020 National Jewish Playwriting Contest, premiered on Portland Stage's mainstage. *Refuge Malja* and *Madeleines* were both nominated for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize.

Monologues from *Death Wings* and *Madeleines* are featured in the 2021 and 2024 editions of *Best Stage Monologues for Women*, published by Smith & Kraus.

Her short plays *Celebrity Exit* and *All I Ever Wanted Was to Play* were produced by Colby College's Department of Performance, Theater, and Dance. *Mergirl Saves the Waves*, Bess' feminist, environmentalist adaptation of *The Little Mermaid*, was developed with support from the Maine Arts Commission and staged by A Company of Girls at the Children's Museum and Theatre of Maine. Her solo comedies *The Passion of the Hausfrau* and *Big Mouth Thunder Thighs* premiered in Portland Stage's Studio Theater, and her collaborative theater performance project with live music and illustration, *Legbala Is a River*, premiered at Mayo Street Arts. She participated as an invited writer at the National Winter Playwrights Retreat (HBMG Foundation) and with Company One Theatre's PlayLab Unit in Boston. You can hear her 15-minute audio rom-coms *What I Miss Most*, *Under My Skin*, and *Island Time* on the Meet Cute Podcast (www.meetcute.com).

Find her online at www.besswelden.com.

MEET THE DESIGNERS AND PRODUCTION STAFF

KURT KLEINMANN (Artistic Director) is the founder of Pegasus Theatre and the author of numerous plays. He is a member of The Dramatists Guild and Actor's Equity Association and a co-founder and Past President of the Dallas Theatre League from 1992 to 1996. Mr. Kleinmann has received many awards for his work in theatre, including a 1995 Leon Rabin Award for Sound Design; the 1997 Ken Bryant Vision Award from The 500 Inc.; and the 2005 Standing Ovation Award from the Dallas Theatre League.

COOPER MITCHELL (Lighting Designer) is a Dallas-based lighting designer for theatre, dance, and live performance. Past lighting projects include work with Echo Theatre, Dallas College, Cara Mia Theatre and several music festivals across Texas.

MICHAEL A. ROBINSON (Costume Designer) is happy to be back with Pegasus Theatre after costuming many Living Black & White™ productions, as well as appearing in *Clowning Around With Murder!* Other recent roles include Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady* and Roger DeBris in *The Producers* for Garland Summer Musicals. He recently starred in the new work, *As We Lie Still*, at the Pearl Theatre in New York. When not in a Theatre somewhere, Michael can be found at his store, The Dallas Costume Shoppe, or at Brookhaven College where he teaches acting. A multitalented artist, Michael designed and created the puppet characters for Theatre Three's award-winning *Avenue Q*. Michael also designed the costumes for a BBC

television documentary about Bonnie and Clyde. Michael received a Leon Rabin Award for Costumes in 2003 for GSM's *42nd Street*.

SHEILA D. ROSE (Artists' Advocate and Props Co-Designer) is easily recognized from her many performances at Pegasus. She was last seen as Amanda/Martina 1 in the RadioVizion presentation of *The Color of Death!* Other Pegasus credits include Wainright in *Death Express!*, a Space Pirate in *The Dimension of Death!*, and a machine gun-toting gangster nun in *Death Is a Bad Habit!*, just to name a few. She recently played Vernadette in Theatre Frisco's *The Sweet Delilah Swim Club* and Consuelo in the regional premiere of John J. Casewell Jr.'s *Man Cave* at Kitchen Dog. Other local credits include Theatre Three, MainStage, Wingspan, Teatro Dallas, and Theatre Arlington.

LOWELL SARGEANT (Sound Designer) most recently designed sound for the RadioVizion production of *The Color of Death!* Other recent designs include: *Ann* by Holland Taylor at WaterTower Theatre, *Tiny Beautiful Things* for Circle Theatre, and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* for the Classics Theatre Project. Lowell was the resident sound designer for WingSpan Theatre Company for its 25 year history. WingSpan designs include: *Two by Beckett*, *Jo & Louisa*, and *On the Verge*, among many others. Additional sound designs include productions for Theatre Three, Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, Pocket Sandwich Theatre, and Classical Acting Company.

BOBBY SELAH (Stage Manager, Light and Sound Operator) is thrilled to return to Pegasus Theatre as a Stage Manager after previously working as the Assistant to the Producers on the Living Black & White™ shows for 10 years. He also served as the Resident Stage Manager for WingSpan Theatre Company for five years. Bobby has also worked in various roles at WaterTower Theatre, Lyric Stage, Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, and many others.

BARBARA WEINBERGER (Co-Producer, Pre-Show Speaker) is a producer, problem-solver, and public speaker who has worked with Pegasus Theatre for the past 35 years. She is also the wife and editor for her amazing husband, Kurt Kleinmann, and looks forward to many more years of theatrical adventures together.

D. AIDAN WRIGHT (Set Designer/Builder) previously designed and built the set for Pegasus' 2022 production of *Hate Mail*, also at the Bath House. As the regular set designer for Stolen Shakespeare Guild in Fort Worth, his credits include *Guys and Dolls*, *Romeo and Juliet/Much Ado About Nothing*, *Emma*, *The Sound of Music*, *Harvey*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream/A Winter's Tale*, *Private Lives*, and *Something Rotten*. Aidan also has done sets for *Pippin* (Theater Frisco), *Beauty and the Beast* (Upright Theater) and *Romeo and Juliet* (Plague Mask Players). He is an actor and director, and has recently taken a position in the Dallas College theater department.

Your donations are critical!

They allow us to continue to bring you the annual Living Black & White™ gala production of new comedy-murder-mysteries, featuring the inept but endearing detective Harry Hunsacker, as well as other new and original comedies in a professional setting, highlighting the talents of North Texas theatre artists.

In a well-run theatre, ticket prices typically generate about a third of the budget. Non-profit theaters are expected to show community support by getting another third from individual donors like you. The final third comes from corporations and foundations. All donations to Pegasus Theatre are deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Pegasus is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a charitable institution under section 501(c)(3) of the tax code.

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