two headed rep presents

The Collision

and What Came After, or, GUNGH!

By **Nadja Leonhard-Hooper**

Directed by **Lily Riopelle**

– AND –

THE MARTYRDOM

OF THE HOLY VIRGINS AGAPE, CHIONIA, AND IRENA, BY HROTSVITHA THE NUN OF GANDERSHEIM, AS TOLD THROUGHOUT THE LAST MILLENNIUM BY THE MEN, WOMEN, SCHOLARS, MONASTICS, PUPPETS, AND THEATER COMPANIES (LIKE THIS ONE) WHO LOVED HER. OR: DULCITIUS

NEW TEXT BY
AMANDA KEATING

TRANSLATION BY
LIZZIE FOX

DIRECTED BY
MOLLY CLIFFORD



JANUARY 16 – FEBRUARY 5



— Cast —

(In Alphabetical Order)

Anise / Ensemble ..... **Lizzie Fox**

The Messengers / Ensemble ..... **Halima Henderson**

Gunch / Ensemble ..... **Layla Khoshnoudi** *

Gudrun / Ensemble ..... **Emma Ramos** *

— Creative Team —

Playwright, *The Collision* ..... **Nadja Leonhard-Hooper**

Director, *The Collision* ..... **Lily Riopelle**

Translator, *The Martyrdom* ..... **Lizzie Fox**

Playwright, *The Martyrdom* ..... **Amanda Keating**

Director, *The Martyrdom* ..... **Molly Clifford**

Scenic Designer ..... **Cate McGrea** †

Costume Designer ..... **Nicole Slaven** †

Lighting Designer ..... **Cheyenne Sykes** †

Sound Designer ..... **Margaret Montagna**

Props/Puppet Designer ..... **Liz Oakley**

Fight Director ..... **Cristina (Cha) Ramos**

Production Stage Manager ..... **Hanako Rodriguez** *

Assistant Director/Assistant Stage Manager ..... **Erica Schnitzer**

Run time: 2 hours, 40 minutes, including one 15-minute intermission

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION 1913

*Equity member appearing with permission of Actors' Equity Association without benefit of an Equity contract in this Off-Off Broadway production. Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 50,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. www.actorsequity.org

† Member of United Scenic Artists.

— Hrotsvitha of Gandersheim —

(c. 935 - 1002 C.E.)

Hrotsvitha of Gandersheim was a Saxon nun and is the first recorded female playwright of the Western tradition. Little is known of her life. She was raised in Saxony and likely entered the convent of Bad Gandersheim in her 20s, where she worked closely with her abbess and mentor, Gerberga.

She wrote three books comprising six plays, eight poetic legends, and two histories. From what we know, she was the first Western playwright to compose dramas after the Classical Period — and after her death, plays were not composed by women for another 300 years.

This translation of *Dulcitius* is based on Paul von Winterfeld's 1902 edition of the Latin text.



Medieval Christianity and Demonizing Blackness

Midway through Hrotsvitha of Gandershiem's original medieval Latin text of ***Dulcitius*** emerges a moment of what we acknowledge today as a racist association of Black personhood with evil. In this scene, Agape, Hirena, and Chionia are locked in a 'storage closet' near hanging cookware, fearing an assault by the governor of Thessalonica, Dulcitius. He mistakes the pots and pans for the women and begins to fondle the kitchenware, staining himself with soot in the process:

HIRENA: His face and hands and clothes are so dirty
so completely covered in grease
that he looks like an Ethiopian.

AGAPE: Given that his soul is possessed by the devil
it's appropriate that his body should look like that.

For our production of Hrotsvitha's play, we've chosen to cut these two lines from the text.

The association of blackness with evil and whiteness with purity occurs throughout Christianity. The Bible begins with God separating light from darkness, saying that "light was good." (Gen. 1:4). But the association began in earnest in the Middle Ages. Some 600 years before ***Dulcitius***, theologian Athanasius told of a young Black boy appearing as a demonic spirit of fornication in his popular work *The Life of St. Antony* (356-362 CE). Additionally, an early version of the Dulcitius/three virgins myth (675-700 CE) written by Anglo-Saxon Bishop Aldhelm referred to the attacking governor as an "Aethiope." Both are works that Hrotsvitha was sure to have studied as a well-educated nun.

Anthropologist Charles Stewart has said that demons are "concerted representations of otherness." Undoubtedly, Hrotsvitha's demons of sexuality look Black, but it is possible, like demons themselves, blackness was something Hrotsvitha would not have experienced or understood. It is instructive to read ***Dulcitius*** through the lens of its own time, but it is equally important to see the shadow that such ignorance and stereotyping casts into our contemporary moment.

Phillip James Montaño, Dramaturg



Lizzie Fox

(Anise/Ensemble; Translator, The Martyrdom)



Lizzie Fox is an actor, translator, and writer. As an actor, she has performed new work at theaters, including Ensemble Studio Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, and New York Theatre Workshop. As a translator, her work has been supported by the Martha Boschen Porter Fund and the Barn Arts Collective, and she was a finalist for the 2021 Peirene Press Translation Prize. Her translation of Hrotsvitha's first preface is forthcoming in the Spring 2022 issue of *The Arkansas International*. Lizzie is a graduate of Williams College, where she received her BA in Comparative Literature and Latin.
www.lizziefox.com

Halima Henderson

(The Messengers/Ensemble)



Halima Henderson has performed dark comedy at HERE Arts, Shakespeare in parking lots, sketch at The PIT, and is a former member of The Bats at The Flea. Most recently, she self-produced and starred in the award-winning short *Sorry*. Halima has trained with Peoples Improv Theater, Upright Citizens Brigade, Shakespeare & Co., Fiasco Theater, The Freeman Studio, and NYCDA. Off-stage, she's a teaching artist and gummy bear snob. A proud University of Michigan alum, Halima is thrilled to be a part of this cast of rebellious women. Thanks friends, family, cast, and crew!
www.HalimaHenderson.com

Layla Khoshnoudi

(Gunch/Ensemble)



MFA, Brooklyn College. Select Theater: ***Men on Boats*** (Clubbed Thumb Playwrights Horizons), ***Dance Nation*** (Playwrights Horizons), ***Bull in a China Shop*** (LCT3), ***Dido of Idaho*** (Ensemble Studio Theater), ***Wyoming*** (Lesser America), ***My Daughter Keeps Our Hammer*** (Flea Theater). TV: *Instinct, FBI*. FILM: *Closure* (wrote and directed); *Long Nights, Short Mornings; Nadia Jaan, Androgen, Bookends, Lost Nation*.

Emma Ramos

(Gudrun/Ensemble)



Emma Ramos is a bilingual Mexican-American actress and screenwriter. She won the CenturyFox/Disney Women of Color TV Pilot Incubator as well as the Warner Media 150 Award at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. Emma's screen credits include a recurring role on *New Amsterdam, Law & Order: SVU, Unforgettable, Marisol* on HBO (nominated for Best Actress next to Olivia Thirlby and Jennifer Morrison), *Halfway to Somewhere* with Steve Zahn, and *Barbie* (official short selection at the Cannes Film Festival 2021). Her theater credits include Ivo Van Hove's ***Scenes from a Marriage***, ***Water by the Spoonful*** by Quiara Alegría Hudes, Pablo Neruda's ***R&J*** for the Public Theater's Mobile Unit, and ***Frontiers Sans Frontiers*** ("Ramos should win a prize for this" —*Time Out*).

Molly Clifford

(Director, The Martyrdom)

NYC Directing: ***Polylogues*** (Colt Coeur @ HERE), ***RETREAT*** (EST/Youngblood, Two Headed Rep); ***Karaoke at The Golden Sun Convention Center***, ***MISS JULIE***, ***Restaurant in D Major***, ***TARTUFFE*** (Two Headed Rep); ***American Dreamers*** (West of 10th), ***Soldier*** (All For One), ***The Elephant in the Room*** (NY Fringe). Short plays and readings for EST/Youngblood, TinyRhino, 7x7, West of 10th. Assisting: Classic Stage, Playwrights Realm, The Play Company, Vineyard Theatre, EST, Cherry Lane, and Yale Rep. Alumna of the National Theater Institute and Connecticut College. Co-artistic director of Two Headed Rep.

www.mollycliffordirects.com

Amanda Keating

(Playwright, The Martyrdom)

Amanda Keating is a playwright and translator from Western Mass. Plays include ***with fellowship*** (EST/Sloan, O'Neill Finalist), ***TEACH/TEACH*** (Playwrights Realm Finalist, Leah Ryan Honorable Mention), ***RETREAT*** (Ensemble Studio Theatre, Two Headed Rep), ***OF SOLITUDE*** (Martha's Vineyard Playhouse), ***HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING*** (University of Iowa), adaptations of ***TARTUFFE*** and ***MISS JULIE*** (Two Headed Rep), and others. She is a former member of EST/Youngblood, an EST/Sloan Commission recipient, and an O'Neill Finalist. Her short plays have been produced by The Williamstown Theatre Festival, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Rule of 7x7, and Samuel French. BA: Williams College, MFA: University of Iowa Playwrights Workshop.

Nadja Leonhard-Hooper

(Playwright, The Collision)

Nadja Leonhard-Hooper is a playwright who wants to make theater that is absurd, surreal, funny, and, ideally, about animals. Her work has been seen at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, The Tank, Dixon Place, Hairpin Arts Center in Chicago, and Standard Toykraft. She is a recipient of an EST/Sloan new play commission, a member of EST/Youngblood, and a co-founder of the writer's residency Hot Bread 4 Writers.

Cate McGrea

(Set Designer)

Cate McCrea is a scenographer specializing in collaborative development of new works. Recent production credits include ***A Woman of the World*** (The Acting Company), ***Cherie Dre*** (Danspace Project), ***Madonna col Bambino*** (ANTFest and Ice Factory), and the Drama League's DirectorFest 2021. Cate is a proud member of Local USA 829.

Margaret Montagna

(Sound Designer)

Margaret Montagna is a New York City-based sound designer, originally from Brooklyn. Select design credits include: ***Unstuck*** (The Tank), ***The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*** (The New School), ***A Woman of the World*** (59E59 Theaters), ***Raw Pasta*** (The New Ohio Theater), ***Pippin*** (Theater for a New City), ***Anna in the Tropics*** (Stella Adler Studios), ***Queen*** (Astoria Boys and Girls Club), ***Prisoners of Quai Dong*** (The Tank), ***Williston*** (IATI), ***Holy Ghosts*** (Urban Stages), ***They Promised Her the Moon*** (Theatre at St. Clements).

www.margaretmontagnasd.com

Liz Oakley

(Props/Puppet Designer)

Liz Oakley is a puppeteer, designer, performance-maker, and teaching artist. Her original performance work has appeared at Dixon Place, the Wassaic Project, the Art In Odd Places Festival, the Object Movement Festival, The Tank, Coney Island USA, The Painted Cloud, AS220, Judson Memorial Church, and various living rooms and street corners. Her puppet designs have appeared at Mixed Magic Theater, Saratoga Shakespeare Company, the Providence Fringe Festival, Yes! And... Collaborative Arts, the New Masculinities Festival, Boston Center for the Arts, and Production Workshop. Liz grew up in New York and currently lives in Philadelphia.
www.Lizlizliz.com

Cristina (Cha) Ramos

(Fight Director) (she/ella)

Cristina (Cha) Ramos is a multidisciplinary theater artist invested in telling underrepresented stories with a focus on the power of movement. Current/recent projects include: associate intimacy direction for ***COMPANY*** and ***Jagged Little Pill*** on Broadway, dramaturgy for a new queer adaptation of ***Anna Karenina***, performing with the Vixens en Garde, teaching stage combat and intimacy for the stage in NYC and beyond, and ongoing workshops of her own original plays ***Fire Burn Them*** and ***Like to the Gods***.
www.CallMeCha.com

Lily Riopelle

(Director, The Collision)

Select Directing: ***Let's get ready together*** (The Tank); ***Leonce and Lena***, ***Reno & Moll***, ***Lysistrata***, ***Don't make yourself crazy*** (Two Headed Rep); ***Les Museums*** (The Brick/Dixon Place), ***Twenty Five to White*** (Clubbed Thumb Winterworks). Short plays and readings with Ensemble Studio Theatre, Clubbed Thumb, the Williamstown Theatre Festival, The Tank, The Flea, NYMF, West of 10th, and more. Select Assisting: Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Encores! Off-Center, and the upcoming Broadway production of *How I Learned to Drive*. Alumna of the National Theater Institute and Williams College.
www.lilyriopelle.com

Hanako Rodriguez

(Production Stage Manager)

Hanako Rodriguez is a freelance theater professional with a passion for helping to bring to life new works written by underrepresented voices. Her recent New York credits include NYT Critic's Pick ***ATHENA*** (The Hearth) and ***Black Feminist Video Game*** (The Civilians). She has worked on numerous Off and Off-Off Broadway projects including those with The Fire This Time Festival, National Black Theatre, HB Studios, The Bushwick Starr, horsetrade, WWTNS?, HERE Arts, and La Mama ETC.

Erica Schnitzer

(Assistant Director/Assistant Stage Manager)

Erica Schnitzer is a Brooklyn-based theater maker. Select credits include ***Preparedness*** by Hillary Miller (Bushwick Starr), ***The Great Hunger*** by Kallan Dana (The Tank), ***Fandango for Butterflies and Coyotes*** by Andrea Thome (EnGarde Arts), ***Plastic Bag Store*** by Robin Frohardt (Pomegranate Arts), ***Open Call*** (The Shed), ***A Dozen Dreams*** (EnGarde Arts), ***Playdate*** by Kallan Dana (Dixon Place), ***What The Constitution Means to Me*** by Heidi Schreck (NYTW), ***The Recipe*** By Kristin Worrall (The Momentary), ***Black Light*** by Daniel Alexander Jones (The Public), and ***Mile Long Opera*** (The Office Arts).
www.ericaschnitzer.com

Nicole Slaven

(Costume Designer)

Nicole Slaven is a Brooklyn-based costume designer and theater artist. Previous collaborations include companies such as NAATCO, Lesser America, Atlantic Theatre Company, The New School of Drama, Warren G. Miller PAC, The Tank, Two Headed Rep, and the Williamstown Theatre Festival. Nicole received a Drama Desk nomination for her costume design of NAATCO's ***Henry VI: Shakespeare's Trilogy in Two Parts***. She is a teaching artist at the Oldfields School and a resident designer with Two Headed Rep.
www.nicoleslaven.com

Cheyenne Sykes

(Lighting Designer)

Originally from the Coast Salish territory on so-called Vancouver Island, Cheyenne works on projects ranging from dance, installation, music, and theater. Select Recent Design Credits: ***Polylogues*** (Colt Coeur), ***The Softstream*** (Digital Concert from Softee), ***PNEUMOTHERAPY (II)*** (Miles Greenberg at PERROTIN New York), ***HAEMOTHERAPY (1)*** (Miles Greenberg at Reena Spaulings), ***Black Exhibition*** (The Bushwick Starr), ***The Slow Room*** (PSNY). Select Assistant/Associate Credits: *Bonnaroo* Site Lighting (David Weiner Design), ***Mary*** (Kanye West at Lincoln Center), ***Heroes of the Fourth Turning*** (Playwrights Horizons), ***"Daddy"*** (New Group/Vineyard), ***The Good Swimmer*** (BAM), Drake-*Boy Meets World* (European Tour).
www.cheyennesykes.com

— Two Headed Rep —

Two Headed Rep commissions bold adaptations and new plays inspired by classics and produces these commissions in repertory. By inviting a spectrum of diverse responses to the classics, they create a more equitable, inclusive, and innovative canon for future generations to inherit.

www.twoheadedrep.com

Two Headed Rep would not be what it is without the countless and invaluable contributions of our friend and colleague, Katie Falter, who died last year. She served as our Associate Producer from 2016-2019, and we dedicate these plays to her.

Two Headed Rep is a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas, a non-profit arts service organization.

— Two Headed Rep Staff —

Artistic Directors
Molly Clifford, Lily Riopelle

Artistic Associate
Maya Davis

Literary Manager
Amanda Keating

— Special Thanks —

Erik Augustine, Megan Behrend, Denny Bess, Mikumari Caiyhe, Merissa Czyz, Edan Dekel, Alejandro Dinsmore, Kareem Fahmy, David Finger, Ashley Garrett, Wayne Hammond, Amy Holzapfel, Alan Hooper, Emily Ciavarella Kuntz, Sigi Leonhard, Jerry Lieblich, The Naughty Girls, Marc Romeo, Carl Whipple, The Youngbloods.

Two Headed Rep's work is made possible by the support of our generous individual donors (to join their ranks, you can donate here www.twoheadedrep.com/donate), as well as The Howard Gilman Foundation.

Curator's Note

Welcome to Two Headed Rep's plays – each boldly crafted in response to ***DULCITIUS***, a short comedy penned by the first recorded woman playwright. Hrotsvitha was a 10th-century nun with an unusually wicked sense of humor. It's understandable that Co-Artistic Directors Lily Riopelle and Molly Clifford would be drawn to investigate and tease out such tantalizing source material. This pair of adventurous new comedies are sure to spark conversation, and I can't wait to hear your thoughts.



Val Day
Artistic Director
59E59 Theaters

59E59 THEATERS STAFF

ELYSABETH KLEINHANS President/Founding Artistic Director
VAL DAY Artistic Director
BRIAN BEIRNE Managing Director
ELIZA JOHNSON Finance Associate/Office Manager
CATE PUGLIA Receptionist/Administrative Assistant
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ITAI ADAM VAGNER Usher
IXI TESON Usher
MICIAH WALLACE Usher
NATALIE YUSTY Usher
VICTORIA DOUGLAS Usher
JOHN D. IVY Theater Technician
KAT KHELLBLAU Theater Technician
SAM DAVIS Theater Technician

NEXT IN THEATER C — FEBRUARY 18 – MARCH 5



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

59E59 Theaters reside on the traditional homelands of the Lenni-Lenape People on the Lenape Island of Mannahatta. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of the land who were forcefully removed during colonization resulting in erased and excluded peoples and culture. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on the land and honor their elders, past and present alongside future generations for their stewardship and continuing relationship with their territory.

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