

CALVARIA

A PLAY FOR FERAL GIRLS

BY MAGGIE SMITH



YO HO.

(A PIRATE PLAY ABOUT ANNE BONNY & MARY READ)

BY SMJ

TWO OUT OF THREE FALLS

A PLAY WITH WRESTLING

BY BILL DANIEL



BABES WITH BLADES THEATRE COMPANY

Is a proud member of



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The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
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BAVES^{WITH} BLADES
THEATRE COMPANY



The performances in this festival use realistic staged violence in
the telling of the stories.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO RECORDING OF ANY KIND IS
STRICTLY PROHIBITED

CALVARIA

By Maggie Smith

Directed by Morgan Manasa*

Fight Choreography by Jessica Pennachio

CAST

Edie	Deanna Palmer (she/her)
Marty.....	Brandi Jiminez Lee (she/her)
Amalie.....	Kate Lass (she/her)
Bertha	Vanessa Copeland (she/her)
Donna	Tina-Kim Nguyen (she/her)
Ruth	Caty Gordon (she/her)
Kathleen	Ahloria Victoria (she/her)
Stage Directions	Stefanie Johnsen (she/her)

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Maggie Smith (she/her) is an playwright, performer, and comedian based in Chicago, Illinois. Originally from Omaha, Nebraska, Maggie moved to Chicago to attend Loyola University Chicago, where she received a BA in Theatre, while minoring in English and Shakespeare Studies. At Loyola, Maggie led two projects, Rats and Saint Louise, Pray for Us, the first being a devised parody musical and the second a staged reading of her two-act play. Upon graduating Loyola, she was accepted into the Second City's Conservatory Training Program, where she completed her training in September, 2023. As a writer, Maggie challenges herself and her audiences to process difficult topics through comedic lenses. She takes from her own life experiences to create a casual representation of the queer experience. In order to depict an experience that she is familiar with, she prefers to write characters in stories where their identities are not the driving force of the piece. Because of this, she

finds herself called to place queer characters at the forefront of comedies. After all, that's what her life is.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Morgan Manasa (she/her), a graduate of the Chicago College of Performing Arts and Theatre Conservatory at Roosevelt University, has been a theatremaker in Chicago for over 20 years. Morgan is a company member at BWBTC where she's directed Joining Sword & Pen winning scripts *The Lady Demands Satisfaction* (Jeff Recommended) and *The S Paradox*. Other directing credits include *JANE: Abortion and the Underground* (Jeff Recommended), *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Jeff Recommended), and *In The Next Room (or The Vibrator Play)* with Idle Muse Theatre Ensemble and *Why Dogs Don't Talk* with First Folio. Thank you for supporting live theatre! www.morganmanasa.com

ABOUT THE FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER

Jessica Pennachio (she/her) has a B.A in Theatre Performance from UNC Charlotte, and completed the Actor's Gymnasium Professional Circus Training Program focusing in partner acrobatics and juggling. She is a trained stunt performer and an Advanced Actor Combatant with the SAFD and has assisted stage combat classes at The Actor's Gymnasium, Open Gate Movement Arts, Roosevelt University, Acting Studio Chicago, and regional workshops. She has performed with Babes With Blades Theatre Company, Collaboraction, Rough House, Chicago Danztheatre Ensemble, and the Carolina Renaissance Festival. She is a fight choreographer for stage and screen, a design team member with Mythweaver Productions, and loves to learn and fight with friends!

**Denotes member of BWBTC Ensemble*

YO HO.

By SMJ

Directed by Maureen Yasko*
Fight Choreography by Carly Belle Cason

CAST

Mary Read / Mark / M Meme Matteson (she/they)
Anne Bonny / Andy / Ana..... Katherine Coyle (she/her)
Calico Jack Joshua Pennington (they/he)
Vanessa & Others..... Claudia Sevilla (she/her)
Chad & Others Vic Kuligowski (he/him)
Stage Directions RJ Hagberg (she/they)

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

SMJ (they/them) is a mixed-Latiné, non-binary playwright and theatermaker originally from Mount Vernon, OH. They were a 2022-2023 Dramatists Guild Foundation Fellow. Currently, SMJ is creating work with Latinx Playwrights Circle, The Orchard Project, and Andy's Summer Playhouse. Their work has been seen in various forms with Ars Nova, Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, New York Stage and Film, Latiné Musical Theatre Lab, National Queer Theater, Carnegie Mellon University, New York University, Otterbein University, Wright State University, University of Texas-El Paso, Art House Productions, The Road Theatre Company, The Flea Theater, Live Arts, The DR2 Theatre, The Vineyard Theatre, American Theatre Group, The Arden Theater, and The Tank. SMJ has been a finalist for the 2024-25 Princess Grace Award in Playwriting at New Dramatists, 2024 June Bingham New Playwright Commission, 2023 Parity Development Award, 2024 Diverse Voices Playwriting Initiative at Illinois State University, and Write Out Loud as well as a semifinalist for the O'Neill's National Playwrights Conference (three times), the 2022-23 Princess Grace Award in Playwriting at New Dramatists, and the Van Lier Fellowship

at Rattlestick Theater. Member of the Dramatists Guild and Ring of Keys. www.smjwrites.com

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Maureen Yasko (she/her) AKA Moe is a Chicago-based Jeff-Nominated Fight Director, Intimacy Director, Actor, Musician, and Teaching Artist. Recent choreo credits include *Kitty James and Destiny's Trail to Oregon* (Factory Theater), *The Tempest* (Idle Muse), *Richard III, Plaid as Hell* (Babes With Blades Theatre Co.) and *Romeo & Juliet* (Lakeside Shakespeare, Midsommer Flight). Moe recently appeared onstage in BWBTC's productions of *The S Paradox* and *The Duchess of Malfi*. She serves as the Resident Intimacy Director & Associate Fight Director of Midsommer Flight; an artistic affiliate of Babes With Blades Theatre Co; and an Adjunct Professor at Columbia College Chicago. Maureen is a Certified Teacher of Stage Combat with the SAFD and her intimacy training is from TIE and IDC. Originally based out of Atlanta, she has been honored to perform, choreograph, movement direct, and teach all over the country. In Chicagoland, Maureen has collaborated with the above as well as Red Theatre, First Folio, A Crew of Patches, City Lit, Promethean Theatre Ensemble, Citadel Theatre, Aurora University and more. When not creating in a theater you'll likely find Moe teaching in a studio as a Certified Yoga Instructor.

ABOUT THE FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER

Carly Belle "CB" Cason (they/she) is an actor, dancer, and fight choreographer living in Chicago, with roots deep in the heart of Texas. CB has degrees in Theatre and Dance from TX A&M University Corpus Christi, she is an Advanced Actor Combatant with the SAFD, and a founding member of Counterfeit Combat. This is their first production with BWBTC and they are excited to be here! Other choreography credits include: *And They Were Shipmates*, *Origin of Liberty Belle* (Counterfeit Combat), *6 Men Dressed as Joseph Stalin* (A Red Orchid Theatre), *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Haven), *This is Only a Test* (Broken Nose Theatre), and *Leap of Fate* (Nonsense Productions).

**Denotes member of BWBTC Ensemble*

◦ Denotes BWBTC Emeritus member

TWO OUT OF THREE FALLS

By Bill Daniels

Directed by Ashley Yates*
Fight Choreography by Axel Rico

CAST

Johanna Goodish Brittany Ellis (she/her)
Eduardo Quinones Jorge Salas (he/him)
Meg Bishop Amber Washington (she/her)
Olympus Montez / Podcast Co-host Jelani Julyus (he/him)
Amos Goodish Eric Frederickson (he/him)
Jackie Cartwright Patrick Blashill (he/him)
Gilda Saxton Kim Fukawa* (she/her)
Dan Metzger / Tony Voss / Producer Jason Weinberg (he/him)
Stage Directions Lizzy Mosher (she/her)

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Bill Daniel (he/him) is an actor/playwright living in the city of Chicago. A graduate of Illinois State University, Bill has spent over a decade in Chicago creating silly stories for silly people. As a playwright, he has written for WildClaw Theatre (*Hell Followed With Her, Cavities*), E.D.G.E. Theatre (*Holmes vs. Holmes, What's All This Then, La Mousquetaire, Through Black Glass*), Illinois State University's Freestage Festival (*The Glass Man, Pingree Road*), McHenry County College (*What's All This Then*), The Living Canvas (*Rain*), Nothing Special Productions (*Manhunt: The Great Waldo Search*), Woodstock's TownSquare Players (*Sitting at the Kid's Table*), Hobo Junction (*The Great Sloppy Joe Extermination, Steeping the Tea*) and Wayward Productions (*Frock Club*). In 2013, Bill undertook a project inspired by Suzan Lori-Parks, wherein he wrote a short play every day for an entire year.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Ashley Yates (she/her) is thrilled to be directing for the Fighting Words Fest for the first time! She has been focusing on the offstage side of theater for the last couple of years and is loving it! She will also be directing the full production of *Two Out of Three Falls* at The Factory Theater in the summer of 2026. She wants to thank this amazing cast for being as excited about this show as she is, Axel Rico for teaching us how to wrestle for the stage and Bill Daniel for writing such a killer story! Let's get ready to rumble!

ABOUT THE FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER

Axel Rico (he/him) is a local professional wrestler in the Chicagoland scene since 2017. He has been on All Elite Wrestling, the National Wrestling Alliance, and Ohio Valley Wrestling Programming. You have seen him regularly wrestle at Chicago Style Wrestling, Galli Lucha Libre, and 2econd Pro Wrestling. To catch him flying through the air, slamming people through tables, or hitting the best drop kick in the game... please follow on Instagram @AxelRRRRico He would like to thank BWBTC for allowing him to bring his expertise to one of their productions and a special thanks to Lauren for being the best Cheerleader and Merch Girl!

**Denotes member of BWBTC Ensemble*

ABOUT BWBTC'S FIGHTING WORDS FESTIVAL

Fighting Words is BWBTC's script development program. Each season we choose three scripts for development and read each one aloud three times—first within the company, then with a small group of invited guests, and finally as part of a festival that includes all three plays. (Every other season the winner of BWBTC's International Playwriting Competition and the Margaret W. Martin Award is automatically included as a part of the process.) During the festival, discussions after each reading provide feedback for the playwrights, assisting them in developing their scripts further.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Babes With Blades Theatre Company produces theatre in venues located on the traditional homelands of the Council of the Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations. Many other tribes such as the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac, and Fox also called this area home. This region that we now commonly refer to as “The Chicagoland Area”, has long been a center for Indigenous people to gather, trade, and maintain kinship ties. Today, one of the largest urban Native American communities in the United States resides in Chicago. Members of this community continue to contribute to the life of this city and to celebrate their heritage, practice traditions, and care for the land and waterways. If you are originally from outside of Chicago, you can discover who's traditional homelands you inhabited by going to [Whose.Land](#).

BWBTC IS ONE OF LESS THAN 15% OF CHICAGO THEATRE COMPANIES

dedicated to representing marginalized voices through storytelling
(and the only one that uses stage combat as a consistent storytelling tool.)

WANT TO SUPPORT WHAT WE DO?

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Or donate at babeswithblades.org/donate

BABES WITH BLADES

THEATRE COMPANY

ENSEMBLE

Kristen Alesia	Line Bower
Alison Dornheggen	Kim Fukawa
Carrie Hardin	Kelsey Kovacevich
Jillian Leff	Morgan Manasa
Jennifer L. Mickelson	Izis Mollinedo
Hazel Monson	Jennifer Mohr
Lauren Paige	Patty Roache
Thomas Russell	Megan Schemmel
Payton Shearn	Hayley Rice
Laura J. Wiley	Kathrynne Wolf
Maureen Yasko	Ashley Yates

BOARD

Lata Balagangadharan	Jess Chamblee Eisenberg
Rose Hamill	Kelsey Kovacevich
Catherine Maller	James Piche
Hayley Rice	



OUR MISSION

Babes With Blades Theatre Company uses stage combat to tell stories that elevate the voices of underrepresented communities and dismantle the patriarchy. Through performance, script development, training and outreach, our ensemble creates theatre that explores the wide range of the human experience, and cultivates broader perspectives in the arts community and in society as a whole.