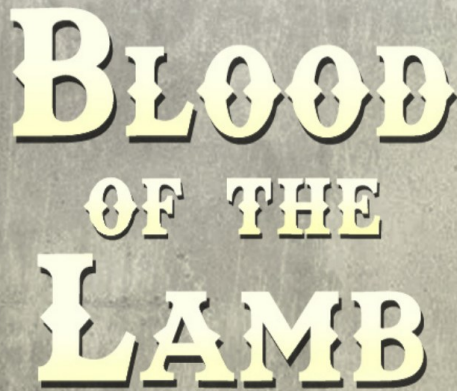


CENTENARY
STAGE
COMPANY

WOMEN PLAYWRIGHTS SERIES PRESENTS

WPS
WOMEN PLAYWRIGHTS SERIES



**BLOOD
OF THE
LAMB**

BY ARLENE HUTTON

APRIL 26TH- 7:30PM

SPONSORED BY:



KUTZ BLACKBOX | 715 GRAND AVE | HACKETTSTOWN, NJ 07840

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MEET THE PLAYWRIGHT...

A Note from:

Arlene Hutton

BLOOD OF THE LAMB was commissioned by B Street Theatre for two of their company members, one of whom, Dana Brooke, appears tonight. In it I return to my earliest influences, looking at the world through a lens of absurdism, experimentation and



theatricality as I struggle to make sense of the changing times I'm living in. My very first play, a political piece about every woman's fear of being sexually assaulted and being blamed for it, premiered in Edinburgh in 1995. I thought it would soon be out of date. Sadly, it's more relevant and more produced than ever and has been translated and performed in half a dozen languages, most recently touring India, where it was banned from some festivals. The actors' bravery in presenting that work inspired me and gave me the courage to tackle this new piece. Bureaucratic chaos ensues when laws are made for political reasons instead of humanitarian ones. Although it takes place "tomorrow," BLOOD OF THE LAMB presents a Kafkaesque world not too far away from what is already occurring in our country. But there is hope in seeing what happens when people of seemingly opposing sides actually talk to one another, finding common ground and connection. The first fifteen pages of BLOOD OF THE LAMB came to me in a single afternoon of rage exactly a year ago, right before the "leak" regarding the Supreme Court's draft decision reversing abortion rights. What had been unimaginable was suddenly real. The play lives constantly in my head, with scraps of dialogue coming to me suddenly, demanding to be put on the page and forcing me to dig deep into my darkest well. Your witness to the work is part of the playwright's process and I'm grateful for this opportunity to hear the play. What the Centenary actors and director bring to this reading will inform my next set of revisions, leading to a workshop at B Street and premiere at the Assembly Rooms for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe this August. Once again, I hope a play of mine will soon be out of date.

Arlene Hutton is the author of *LETTERS TO SALA*, *LAST TRAIN TO NIBROC* (Drama League nomination for Best Play), and *GULF VIEW DRIVE*, (2018 Ovation Award for Best Production, Rubicon Theatre). An alumna of New Dramatists and member of Ensemble Studio Theatre, she is a three-time winner of the Samuel French Short Play Festival, nine-time finalist for the Heideman Award, Francesca Primus Prize finalist, recipient of an EST/Sloan Commission and NYFA Fellowship. Residencies include the MacDowell Colony and Yaddo. Hutton's works have been presented at FringeNYC, Off- and Off-Off-Broadway, regionally, in London and at the Edinburgh Fringe. Her play *ACCORDING TO THE CHORUS* premiered at The Road Theatre in LA and opened Off-Broadway at 59E59, starring Karen Ziemba and Dana Brooke. She teaches playwriting online for The Barrow Group.

Blood of the Lamb

By **Arlene Hutton**
Directed by Tia Dionne Hodge

THE CAST

NESSA..... DANA BROOKE
VAL ANGELLE WHAVERS
NARRATOR..... ROBIN GURIN

CREATIVE TEAM / CREW

DIRECTORTIA DIONNE HODGE
WPS PROGRAM DIRECTORMIKAELA KAFKA
STAGE MANAGERJERRY CAVISTON

Setting:

A few weeks from now. While the pandemic is no longer the top story, the world is still a mess, possibly even worse. A windowless industrial room in Houston, TX. Or is it Dallas?

Credit:

BLOOD OF THE LAMB was commissioned by B Street Theatre and received development at The Barrow Group, Ensemble Studio Theatre Playwrights' Unit, New Circle Theatre Company, and The Bechdel Group. It will premiere this August at the Assembly Rooms for the 2023 Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Sponsored By:



THE HOUSE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Welcome to Joyful Living at Riverwalk Village



This event is part of the New Jersey Theatre Alliance 2023 Stages Festival, made possible by support from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; Bank of America; The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey; OceanFirst Foundation; New Jersey Historical Commission. www.njtheatrealliance.org/stages



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The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey



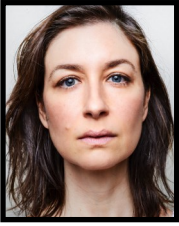
SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT:

Dana Brooke, Lyndsay Burch, Buck Busfield, Darla Hutton, Elisabeth Nunziato, The Pod, and the team at Centenary Stage.

Special Thanks to our 2023 WPS Committee!

Rebecca Engborg, Vita Morales, Robin Gurin, Emily Miller, Debra Scacciafero, Maria Brodeur, Ruth Zamoyta, Kimberly Bollard, and Catherine Rust

THE CAST



Dana Brooke (Nessa) is an actor and playwright based in NYC. She starred in the award-winning feature film “Laura Gets A Cat” (streamable on Amazon, iTunes, Google Play, Tubi), for which she won Best Actress at the 2017 Reno Tahoe International Film Festival. In New York, she has been featured in productions opposite Chita Rivera, Mike Birbiglia, Reed Birney, has worked multiple times with Arthur Laurents, and has performed with The Journey Company, Cardinal Group, The Lark, New Circle Theatre Company, and NYC Fringe. Dana is a company member at B Street Theatre (co-founded by Timothy Busfield), where she has played lead roles in CONSTELLATIONS, IRONBOUND, VENUS IN FUR, OTHER DESERT CITIES, LAST TRAIN TO NIBROC (TRILOGY), THE REALISTIC JONESES, OUTSIDE MULLINGAR, among others. Additional regional credits include George Street Playhouse, New Jersey Repertory Company, Cincinnati Playhouse, Florida Repertory Theatre, Playhouse on Park, Last Frontier Theatre Conference, and NNP’s National Showcase of New Plays. Her television credits include FX’s “Damages”, NBC’s “Ed”, and Fox’s “Canterbury’s Law”.



Angelle Whavers (Val) is honored to be reading for Val in *Blood of the Lamb*. And Playwright with a B.A. in theater and history from Drew University, Angelle has co-written and performed with the Tectonic Theater Project, Parody in Blue, as well as From Uterus with Unidentified Stages and The Red Mic Repertory Company. Additionally, her play Incubator was a part of the 2019 New York Theater Festival, and her play Boogie won the 2020 New Works Festival at the Growing Stage, later receiving a production. She is the co-founder and Director of Social Media for Unidentified Stages and some of her favorite acting roles include: Sapphire, 4320p: Immersion; Nell, Haiku; and Florence, Poof!



Robin Gurin (Narrator) Robin Gurin has been involved with Centenary’s Women’s Playwriting Series since 2017, her involvement in theater began as a teenager, growing up in Montville NJ, the Barn Theater was her home. Majoring in Theater Arts at William Paterson University, Robin became an Emmy-nominated film and television makeup artist. Moving away from makeup once her children were born, she partnered and co-created the Gotham Music catalog for Firstcom, Universal Music. Theater credits include, associate producer “Enterprise” by Brian Parks for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, “68 “ By Jamie Leo for the New York Musical Festival, and “Shout the Mod Musical” Off Broadway. She serves on the Dean’s Advisory Board of William Paterson University School of Humanities, Arts and Sciences, and has worked for many decades as a local and regional arts advocate and community organizer. Pivoting into National and NJ politics in 2016, she presently is a political operative and consultant for various statewide organizations.

MEET THE DIRECTOR...

TIA DIONNE HODGE

SAG-AFTRA AEA DRAMATIST GUILD NYWIFT



Tia Dionne Hodge most recently appeared as supporting lead Linda in Quinn Shephard's *Not Okay*, as Wendy Coleman in Shaquille O'Neal's Exec. Produced redemption drama *Steps* and as a guest star in *FBI: Most Wanted*. She will next appear in *Ghost Power Book II's* fourth season and guest star in *The Blacklist's* final season. Tia Dionne recently directed Jacqueline Kennedy's *Walk by the Moon* for Speranza Theatre's touring company and associate and line produced *In the Parlor* (Messeret Stroman Wheeler & Ed Wheeler, EP's/ Shari Carpenter, Dir.). She also co-wrote/directed/produced *Big Bully*, which won Best Children's Short Film at the Mediterranean Film Festival Cannes. Tia Dionne worked as Head of Acting and Film at LUX Performing Arts (Jersey City, NJ), as a story instructor at the Montclair Film Festival, and as Advanced Acting, improv, and filmmaking instructor, as well as the Playwright-in-Residence at Performer Theatre Workshop for 18 years. Tia Dionne is the recipient of the inaugural Adrienne Kennedy Society's Louis Kent-Hope Award for Excellence in Creative Writing & Poetry and is a National Poetry Slam Team champion (Cleveland, OH). Case Western Reserve University awarded her an M.A. and a B.A. in English Literature, and plays from her Cleveland Trilogy have been performed and read in various New York and New Jersey theaters. Her monologues and essays can be found in New Monologues for Women by Women, Vol. II, Black Comedy: 9 Plays, and in her 40 monologue collection for young actors, PLAY. SPEAK (2014, OddInt Media, publisher). She is the proud mother of her daughter, Logan.

A Note from the WPS Program Director:

Four Weeks...Four Playwrights.....and YOU!!!

First off, Congratulations!!! to our fabulous playwrights; Michele Aldin Kushner, Barbara Blatner, Jaqueline Goldfinger, and Arlene Hutton. Thank you for your work!

As told to me from the illustrious founder of this Series, Catherine Rust, whose position I have stepped into this year, "I like to think of it as an Adventure Series.!" I

concur! Each of these women playwrights is bringing us a brief look at humanity; each with their own subtle and sometimes not so subtle, unique touch. Each one its own adventure! From the 16th Century... to just Two Weeks into the Future, these plays will hopefully move you, make you question, allow you to step away..... and Enjoy!!!

And... that's what we want to find out after the show!!! Please stay for the talk back. You are the last piece of the puzzle!



It all starts back in the Fall with our fabulous committee of readers. The heart, mind, and time they put into voraciously reading the over 200 submissions is mind blowing. These women are the backbone; selecting these strong pieces, celebrating their unique voices and stellar uses of the art form. Next, thanks to the Directors who have come on board, bringing them from the page to the stage. They are also the ones responsible for our amazing lineup of actors.a much desired piece of the puzzle. And thank you, actors, for bringing your talent to the series! They say that casting is 90% of the game, and these directors have lined up a great group!

Now here we are, LIVE... in the theatre. The final piece of the puzzle!!! Thank you to our Administrative staff for getting the word out!

Since 1992, the year the Women's Playwright Series began here at Centenary, the percentage of Women playwrights being produced has increased, but we still have a ways to go. We, here at Centenary, are proud to be celebrating women's voices in the theatre! We are proud to be telling their stories.

So, now, and finally...Thank you to the crew, who will be dimming the lights shortly... allowing us to sit back and Enjoy the Adventure!

Sincerely,

Mikaela Kafka

Mikaela Kafka
Program Director, WPS 2023

Don't Miss NEXTstage Rep's production of



The Addams Family

April 20-30th

**Follow us online and stay up-to-date
with all of our upcoming events!**



**AND for a full list of our shows this season, or to read up on
our new COVID-19 Policies, go to our website at:**

CentenaryStageCo.org



Diane is getting her affairs in order. As she prepares for “departure” from her present life, her family takes sides. Is this being forced upon her or does she wish to leave life on her own terms?

The reign of the Tudors, King Henry VII. Jane meets Princess Mary Tudor, becoming the first female Foole of the court. We join two very different women as they bond finding agency in the male centric court.



When a soldier returns from war carrying the ghosts of the tour, she is faced with a sobering decision: address the alarming PTSD with Virtual Reality therapy, or risk losing access to her family forever.

Two women: one traveler in need of medical attention; one Lawyer, just doing her job. In this surreal, kafka-esque world, we find these women at opposite sides of the table amidst legal precedents & moral obligation.

