



BELLA POYNTON, MFA | PhD

PLAYWRIGHT | DIRECTOR | DRAMATURG | THEATRE SCHOLAR

ARTISTIC PORTFOLIO

ARTISTIC STATEMENT

AS A PLAYWRIGHT...

I seek to tell epic, sprawling stories with highly imaginative elements. My research interests span across new play development, science, technology, postmodern theory, and posthuman thought. I strive to keep my plays connected to the unique cultural concerns of the time—embedded in the rhythms and essence of our cultural moment. I want the audience to experience daring, innovative stories, told in new ways, and embrace brave experimentations with structure, narrative, and form whenever possible.

ARTISTIC STATEMENT

AS A DIRECTOR...

I seek to empower student artists in the rehearsal room by creating a space where experimentation is primary and risk taking is valued. I aim to create stories that not only reverberate with audiences but also enhance and enrich the experience of student actors and designers by giving them the confidence and agency necessary to make bold artistic choices. I see each production as an investigation of the unknown and consider the experience of *not knowing* to be an artistically generative condition.

ARTISTIC STATEMENT

AS A DRAMATURG...

I honor the words, vision, and intentions of the playwright while also making sure each member of the production is given the agency and attention they need. New plays require the trust and support of the playwright from the whole artistic team, while established pieces require a focused historical overview of society, culture, politics, technology, and values of the time. My approach is to always give student actors and designers the tools needed to immerse themselves in the world of the play.

ARTISTIC STATEMENT

AS A SCHOLAR...

My research interests, both practice based and scholarly, focus on robotics, AI, and posthumanism in performance. My book project, *Robot Dramaturgy* argues that robots as subject technology can become powerful tools for dismantling western technophobia through the experience of live theatre. The book aims to disrupt predictable media narratives of rebellious, deceptive robots, and instead traces the evolution of robotic agency from machine to person through dramatic action. To further develop the manuscript, I plan to give additional attention to the robotic narrative as an emerging dramaturgical structure, or genre, that has arisen out of contemporary postmodernism.



ON THE VERGE
BY ERIC OVERMYER
DIRECTED BY BELLA POYNTON
BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY 2023

ON THE VERGE

BY ERIC OVERMYER

DIRECTED BY BELLA
POYNTON

BUFFALO STATE
COLLEGE 2023



NEW WORKS

FESTIVAL

WRITTEN BY BELLA POYNTON
AND EIU DRAMATIC WRITING STUDENTS

THURSDAY
NOV. 10
7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY
NOV. 11
7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY
NOV. 12
7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY
NOV. 13
2:00 p.m.

THE THEATRE at EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
DOUDNA FINE ARTS CENTER
1860 7th Street | Charleston, IL 61920

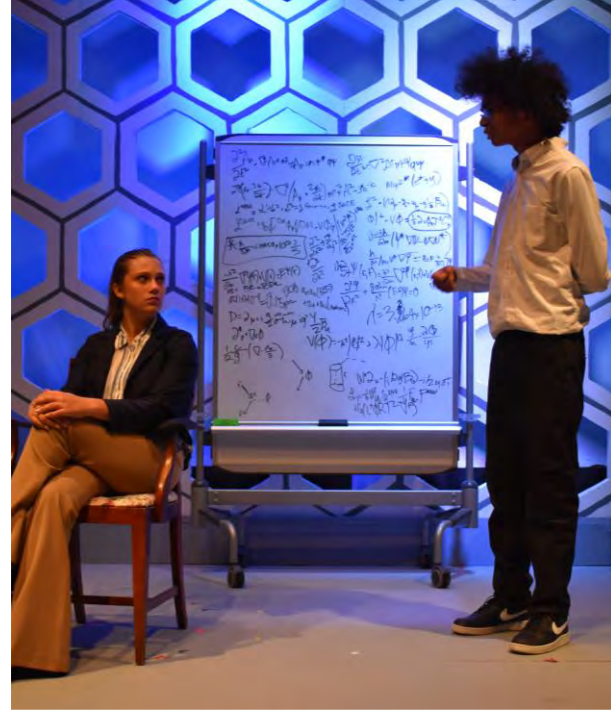
TICKETS \$15/\$13/\$5

NEW WORKS FESTIVAL

FEATURING PLAYS BY BELLA POYNTON

DOUDNA FINE ARTS CENTER

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY 2022



ANOTHER WORLD:
ONE ACT PLAYS FOR
THE IMAGINATION

*EIGHT SHORT INTERCONNECTED
PLAYS!*

BY BELLA POYNTON
DIRECTED BY DANIEL ROBEY
WILMINGTON KILMORE HIGH
SCHOOL 2023

THE GIRL IN THE
WASHROOM

BY BELLA POYNTON

DIRECTED BY LYLA
MEADOWS

THE THEATRE VISCERA
PODCAST 2022

[LINK TO PODCAST](#)



LIVE, AND
NOTHING BUT!

BY JON ELSTON

DIRECTED BY
BELLA POYNTON

VIRTUAL VIEWING

POST INDUSTRIAL
PRODUCTIONS 2020



THE END: AMEN

PLAYWRIGHTS CIRCLE
FESTIVAL OF ONE ACT

DIRECTED BY
BOB VAN VALIN

ALLEYWAY THEATRE 2020

“I personally liked the last play,
THE TOUR GUIDE by Bella
Poynton, best. I’d give Poynton’s
play four Buffalos!”

- Buffalo rising



Poster image by Winifred Storms

Nichols School Advanced Acting Class Presents:

20,000 Leagues

Newly adapted from the Jules Verne classic
by Nichols alumna Bella Poynton

Nov 22nd and 23rd @ 7 pm
\$5 tickets at the door
Flickinger Performing Arts Center
1250 Amherst Street 14216

Artwork by Hanah Rich '22

20,000 LEAGUES: A NEW ADAPTATION

BY BELLA POYNTON

DIRECTED BY KRISTEN TRIPP
KELLEY

THE NICHOLS SCHOOL 2019

FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHY
BY ADRIANO GATTO



20,000 LEAGUES: A NEW ADAPTATION
DIRECTED BY KRISTEN TRIPP KELLEY
FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHY BY ADRIANO GATTO
THE NICHOLS SCHOOL 2019

MEDUSA UNDONE

BY BELLA POYNTON

TULSA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 2023

3RD ACT THEATRE COMPANY, 2020

OTHERWORLD THEATRE, 2019

POST INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTIONS, 2018

PANNDORA PRODUCTIONS, 2015

NOW PUBLISHED BY SAMUEL FRENCH

AT CONCORD THEATRICALS





**MEDUSA
UNDONE**
BY BELLA POYNTON
3rdActTheatreCo.com

MEDUSA UNDONE

3RD ACT THEATRE COMPANY

DIRECTED BY KRIS KUSS 2021

“These performances should win awards. there is no way to say enough about the important and beautiful work...done here.” –BroadwayWorld

“Some shows just simply cannot be talked or written about enough. they absolutely need to be witnessed.” –BroadwayWorld

“if you see it and it doesn't affect you, your heart simply isn't beating.” –BroadwayWorld



MEDUSA UNDONE

AT OTHERWORLD THEATRE 2019

DIRECTED BY TIFFANY KEANE SCHAEFER

PRAISE FOR...

MEDUSA UNDONE

AT OTHERWORLD THEATRE 2019

“Writer Bella Poynton frames the story as a critique of rape culture... Medusa is the sort of vital feminist character not seen enough onstage” – The Chicago Reader

“[T]he play does not shy away from the reality of Medusa’s experience—but nothing is included for shock value... its brilliant, minimalist staging made the difference.” – Pop Mythology



PRAISE FOR...

MEDUSA UNDONE

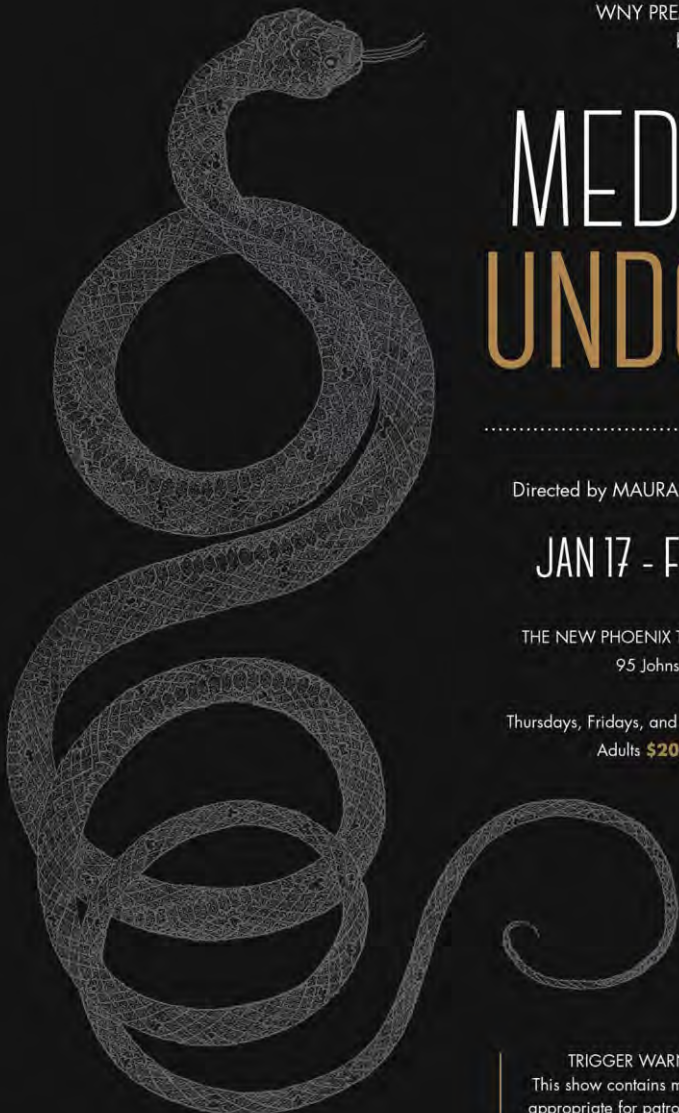
AT OTHERWORLD THEATRE 2019

“Every line in Medusa Undone has been written and delivered with exact precision.” – Pop Mythology

“...The scene that follows is a testament to many of the talents that contribute to the brilliance of Medusa Undone. Mary-Kate Arnold as Medusa, and Christina Jones as Clea, masterfully bring Bella Poynton’s script to life in their depiction of the aftermath of assault.”

– Pop Mythology





WNY PREMIERE of a new play
by BELLA POYNTON

MEDUSA UNDONE

Directed by MAURA NOLAN COSEGLIA

JAN 17 - FEB 2 / 2019

THE NEW PHOENIX THEATRE ON THE PARK
95 Johnson Park, Buffalo 14201

Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at **7:30 PM**
Adults **\$20**, Students/Seniors **\$15**

TRIGGER WARNING: Sexual Violence.
This show contains mature themes and is not
appropriate for patrons under the age of 16.



TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE OR AT THE DOOR
[facebook.com/PostIndustrialProductions](https://www.facebook.com/PostIndustrialProductions)

Program is funded by the New York State Council on the Arts with the
support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature,
administered by Arts Services Initiative of Western New York.



MEDUSA UNDONE

DIRECTED BY MAURA NOLAN

POST-INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTIONS 2019

THE NEW PHOENIX THEATRE

*“Poynton’s powerful statement gains even more
heft from #MeToo, and is well-served by the
performances in its Western New York premiere.”*

– The Buffalo News

Poster image by Josh Robinson

MEDUSA UNDONE

DIRECTED BY MAURA NOLAN

POST-INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTIONS 2019

THE NEW PHOENIX THEATRE

Medusa Undone is not a student production, but I can certainly see it becoming a favorite on college campuses.”

– Buffalo rising



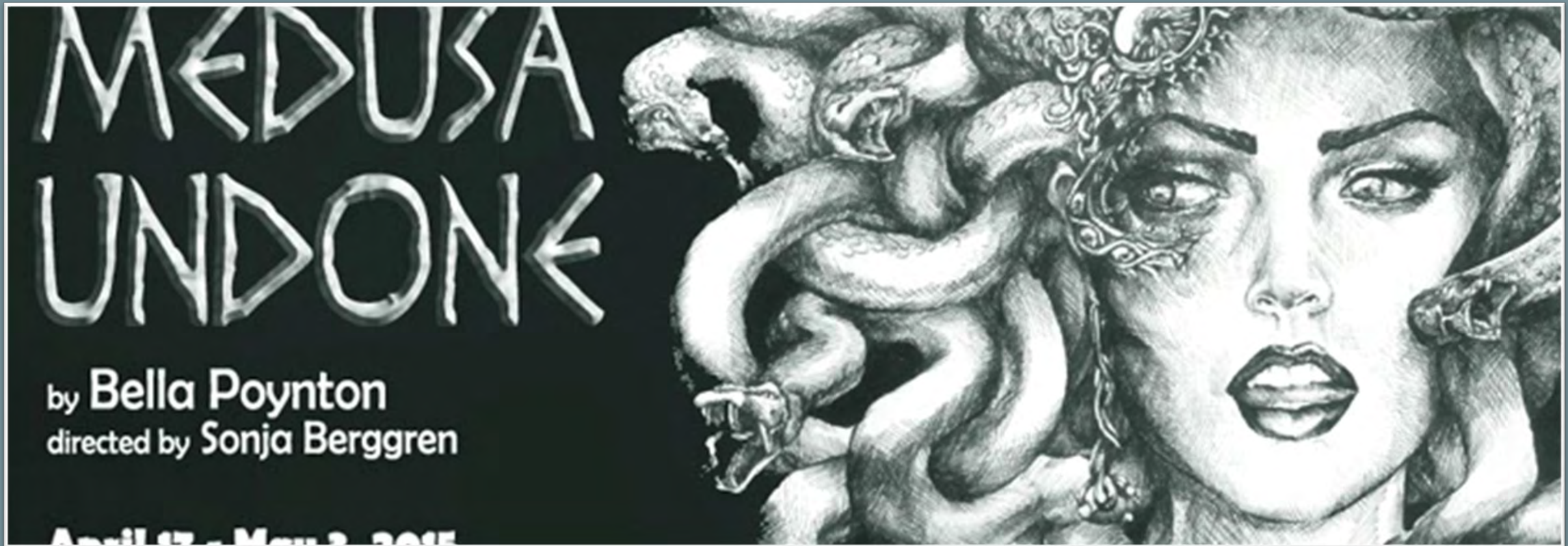


MEDUSA UNDONE

DIRECTED BY SONJA BERGGREN

PANNDORA PRODUCTIONS 2015

WINNER OF THE 8TH ANNUAL NEW WORKS FESTIVAL



PRAISE FOR...

MEDUSA UNDONE AT PANNDORA PRODUCTIONS 2015

“Much in Medusa Undone is strong, powerful, and potentially healing. Its psychological truth is stunning.”
– *Bitter Lemons*

“Since everything about ‘Medusa Undone’ is exceptional, it’s hard to know where to start!” – *The Grunion*



MEDUSA UNDONE

BY BELLA POYNTON
DIRECTED BY ARIEL
FRANCOEUR

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
GALLERY PRODUCTION
2013

OFF OFF BROADWAY SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL

AUGUST 20-24, 2019

Bonnie Antosh · Serena Berman · Amy Berryman · Jacqueline Bircher · Rachael Carnes · Benjamin Carr ·
J. Joseph Cox · Emily J. Daly · Dale Dunn · Chris Edgar · Bixby Elliot · LyaNisha R. Gonzalez
Lindsey Griffith · Emily Hageman · Andrew R. Heinze · Charlotte Higgins · Daniel Hirsch · Howard Ho
Alayna Jacqueline · Aaron Leventman · Johnny G. Lloyd · Becky McLaughlin · Dusty Noval
Nicholas Vasilios Pappas · Eliana Pipes · Michael Pisaturo · Bella Poynton · Kristen Rea · Kevin Rich
Jeff Ronan · Richard Sebastian-Coleman · Rodney Witherspoon II

THE VINEYARD'S DIMSON 15TH ST. THEATRE, NYC

oobfestival.com



A RARE BIRD

BY BELLA POYNTON,

DIRECTED BY BLAYZE TEICHER

SAMUEL FRENCH OOB SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL 2019

NOW PUBLISHED IN *THE WEIRDEST PLAYS OF 2020*

THE CHERRY ORCHARD

BY ANTON CHEKHOV

DIRECTED BY BELLA POYNTON

THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO 2018



The Cherry Orchard

by Anton Chekhov

Adapted by Michael Frayn

Directed by Bella Poynton



University at Buffalo
Department of Theatre and Dance
College of Arts and Sciences

\$5 Tickets available at the Door
November 2-3 2018 7:30pm
November 4 2018, 2:00pm
Katharine Cornell Theatre



BUFFALO QUICKIES AT ALLEYWAY THEATRE

- *On Rooftops And Rowboats*, Directed by Kate Powers, 2022
- *Eleven Things that Happened...* Directed by Joyce Stilson, 2019 (Now Published by Applause)
- *The Offer*, Directed by Lee Becker, 2017 (Now Published by Smith and Kraus)
- *Absolutely Unbelievable!*, Directed By Joyce Stilson, 2016



SPEED OF LIGHT

BY BELLA POYNTON

DIRECTED BY NATHAN PEASE

OTHERWORLD THEATRE COMPANY 2017



SPEED OF LIGHT AT OTHERWORLD THEATRE 2017

“Speed of Light takes a fantastical look at the infinite possibilities of the human mind and the finite potential of a flawed civilization.” – Broadway World

SPEED OF LIGHT

DIRECTED BY SAM TILLIS

QUANTUM DRAGON THEATRE 2016



“Poynton’s ‘Speed of Light’ slyly engages with many modern monsters: the impending doom of these planets, clearly the climax of climate change, can only be averted by the nearly impossible forays of one woman’s mind.” – Theatrius

Mathematics is finite. Where it ends, we begin.


SPEED OF LIGHT

Bella Poynton

\$20
SF

Mojo Theatre
26 August -
10 September
2016

quantumdragon.org





SPEED OF LIGHT

ROAD LESS TRAVELED PRODUCTIONS 2015

DIRECTED BY SCOTT BEHREND

NOMINATED FOR THE EMANUEL FRIED AWARD FOR
OUTSTANDING NEW PLAY

SPEED OF LIGHT

DIRECTED BY ARIEL
FRANCOEUR

THE IOWA NEW PLAY
FESTIVAL 2014

KILROYS LIST
HONORABLE MENTION
2015



Speed of Light
By Bella Poynton
Directed By Ariel Francoeur

FURTHER ACCOLADES FOR...
SPEED OF LIGHT



Great Plains Theater Conference
PlayLab selection, 2015

Kilroys List, Honorable Mention, 2015

Finalist, O'Neill Playwrights
Conference, 2015



THE AURORA PROJECT

BY BELLA POYNTON, DIRECTED BY RACHEL KORACH-HOWELL

THE IOWA NEW PLAY FESTIVAL 2013



THE AURORA PROJECT

JUNE 2 - 17, ACCESS THEATRE



THE AURORA PROJECT

BY BELLA POYNTON

DIRECTED BY JESSE KANE-HARTNETT

THE NAVIGATORS THEATRE COMPANY AT ACCESS THEATRE 2017

PRAISE FOR...

THE AURORA PROJECT

AT THE NAVIGATORS THEATRE COMPANY 2017

“Science fiction and theater tends to be an unusual combination, but once in a while, somebody gets it right.” – AllMedia

“Poynton’s interrogations are ones that have stood the test of time inside her narrative as well as in art.” – Theatre Is Easy

“Director Jesse Kane-Hartnett helps pull Poynton’s story together beautifully so that there is never a dull moment.” –AllMediaNY

“Sci-fi fans will relish Bella Poynton’s ambitious universe and curious characters.” – Theatre is Easy

THE AURORA PROJECT

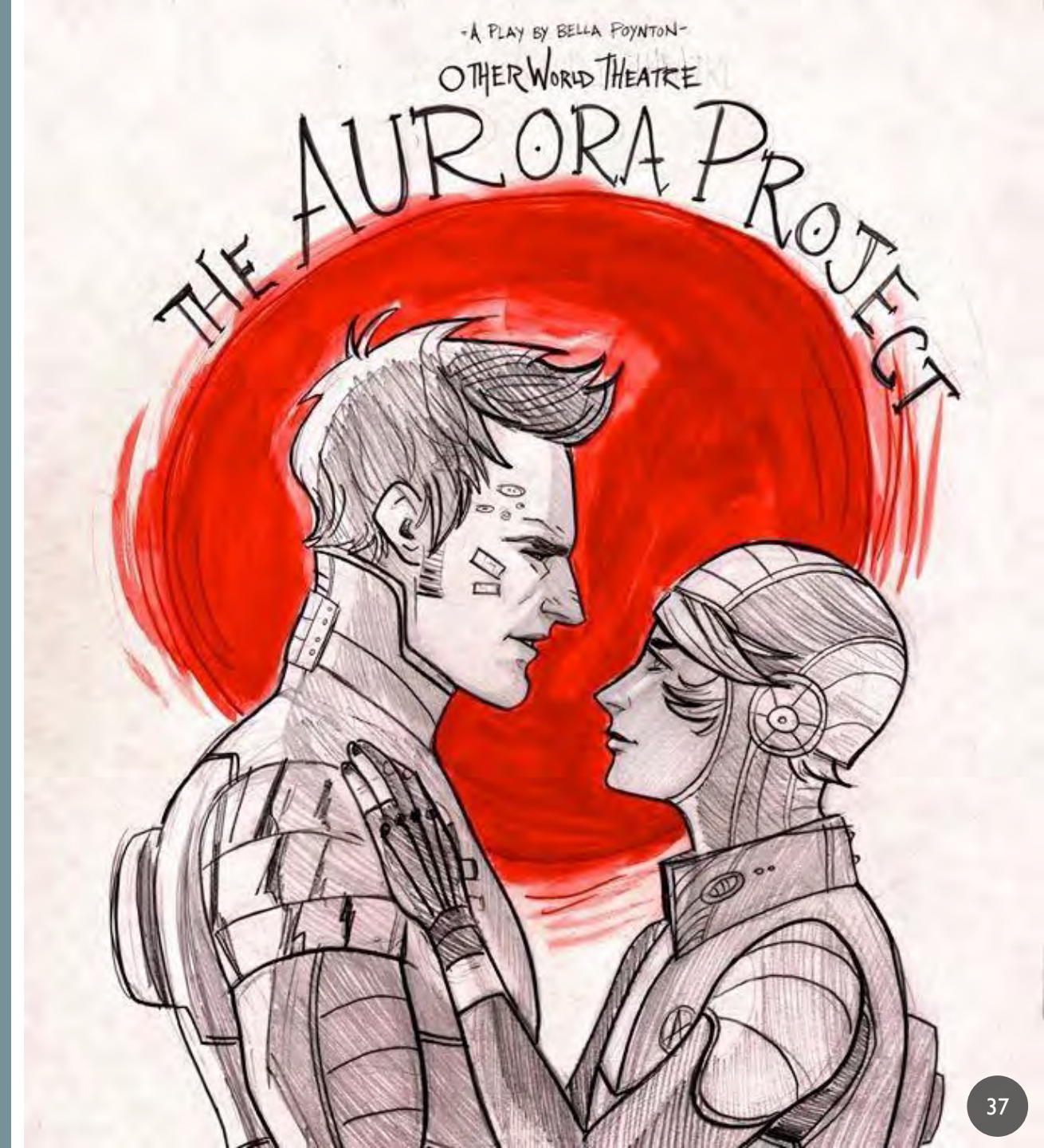
OTHERWORLD THEATRE 2014

DIRECTED BY

TIFFANY KEANE-SCHAEFER

RIGHT BRAIN THEATRE PROJECT

CHICAGO READER RECOMMENDED





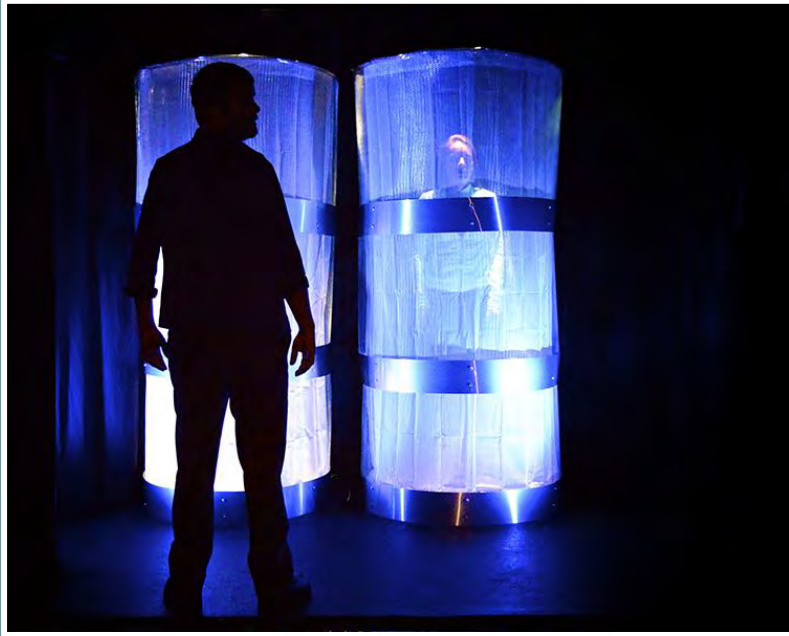
THE AURORA PROJECT

AT OTHERWORLD THEATRE

2014

“[E]ach of the supporting characters is excellent—well-written and well acted. I desperately wanted to see more of Bennett Decker Bottero as the alien Questry, Christian Robert Isley V as Constantine’s designer, and Sarah Scanlon as the Gatekeeper. Questry especially was a fascinating character whose story could’ve filled its own play.” – Sean Kelley





THE AURORA PROJECT

DIRECTED BY A. VINCENT ULARICH

THE SCIENCE FICTION THEATRE COMPANY OF BOSTON 2013



Goldfish Memory Productions Presents

THE OFFER

by Bella Poynton

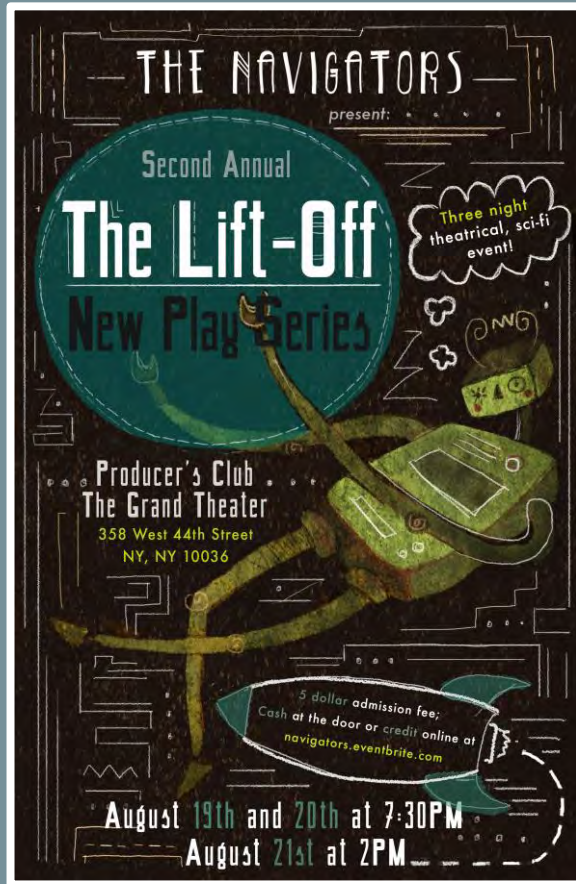
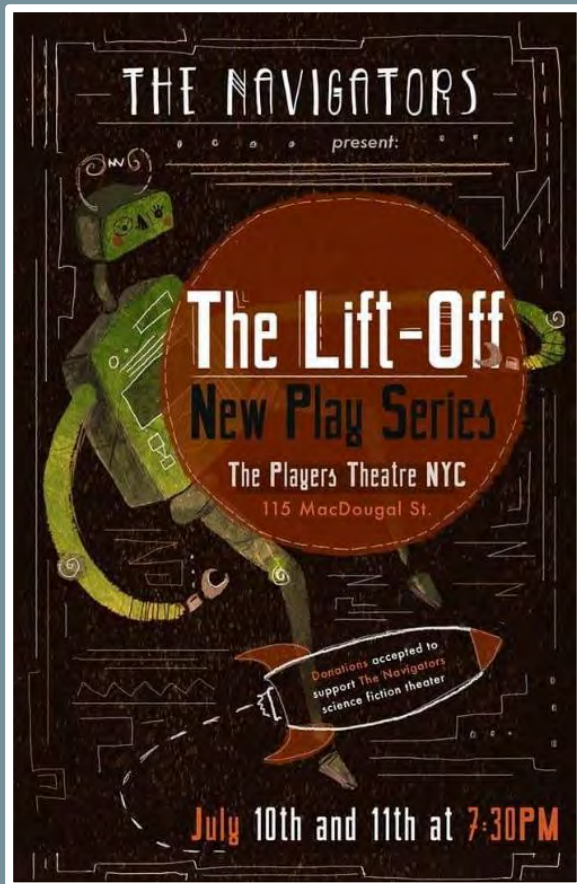
THE OFFER BY BELLA POYNTON

DIRECTED BY LANA RUSSELL

THE SAMUEL OOB SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL 2015

SELECTED FINALIST, NOW PUBLISHED IN

THE BEST TEN-MINUTE PLAYS OF 2019



LIFT-OFF NEW PLAY SERIES 2015-2018

THE NAVIGATORS THEATER COMPANY

BELLA POYNTON, PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR

THE ANNUNCIATION PLAY

(PREVIOUSLY, THE ANGEL PLAY)

BY BELLA POYNTON

LOOKING GLASS THEATRE 2012

The Angel Play

Written by
Bella Poynton

Directed by
Amanda Thompson

MARCH 16 - APRIL 1





THE ANNUNCIATION PLAY

BY BELLA POYNTON

DIRECTED BY AMANDA THOMPSON

LOOKING GLASS THEATRE 2012



POPE JOAN

BY BELLA POYNTON

DIRECTED BY TARA BECKETT

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

INCITE ARTS FESTIVAL

NEW WORLD STAGES 2009

NOMINATED FOR THE CHRISTOPHER BRIAN

WOLK PLAYWRITING AWARD

ABINGDON THEATRE COMPANY 2010



POPE JOAN

AT THE HUNTINGTON THEATRE

BOSTON UNIVERSITY 2009

DIRECTED BY TARA BECKETT



RECENT AND UPCOMING PROJECTS AND PRODUCTIONS

A Rare Bird by Bella Poynton
As part of The Bird Breakfast: Bite Size Plays
At the Edinburgh Fringe, 2023

The Mighty Maisie
by Bella Poynton, directed by Eric Kildow
Kent State University, March 2023

Eleven Things That Almost Happened...
by Bella Poynton, directed by Matthew Lindsay
Santa Fe College, Jan 2023

The Aurora Project
by Bella Poynton, directed by Boyer
Oklahoma City University, April 2023

Brilliant Works of Art
by Donna Hoke, directed by Bella Poynton
First Look Buffalo Theatre Company, Jan 2023

The Appliance Department
by Bella Poynton, directed by Carrie Winship
Bloomsburg University, Plays-In-Bloom, May 2023

The A.I. at Delphi
By Bella Poynton (development)
Mid America Theatre Conference, March 2023

Another Universe: One Acts for the Imagination
by Bella Poynton, directed by Daniel Robey
Wilmington Kilmore High School, October 2023

RECENT AND UPCOMING PROJECTS AND PRODUCTIONS

Medusa Undone

by Bella Poynton, directed by Marc Frank
Tulsa Community College, 2023

The Aurora Project

by Bella Poynton, directed by Bob Van Valin
Post Industrial Productions, 2024

The A.I. at Delphi

by Bella Poynton, directed by Drew McCabe
First Look Buffalo Theatre Company, 2024

Prelude to a Kiss

by Craig Lucas, directed by Bella Poynton
Bellissima Productions, 2024

The Appliance Department

by Bella Poynton, directed by Kate Powers
First Look Buffalo Theatre Co., (reading)
December 2023

20,000 Leagues by Bella Poynton,
directed by Tiffany Keane Schaefer
Otherworld Theatre Company, 2024

The Mighty Maisie

by Bella Poynton, directed by Kelli G. Natale
ART of WNY, 2024



WWW.BELLAPOYNTON.COM

NEW PLAY EXCHANGE:
<https://newplayexchange.org/users/2450/bella-poynton>

