

ONE ACTS FESTIVAL 2021

“Myth and Marriage”

The Barely Wives Club

by Sarah Segal-Lazar

Directed By: Michael Cicchini

Starring: Maiya Irwin, Tyra Hayward & Simon Bell

The Barely Wives Club by Sarah Segal-Lazar is produced by special arrangement with Playwrights Guild of Canada

www.playwrightsguild.ca

The M Word

by Alan Ball

Directed By: Matthew Martin

Starring: Jada Dawson & Paolo Bozzo

The M Word is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

The Barely Wives Club

Synopsis: Under the River Styx, Eurydice and Juliet are confined to their own version of purgatory: A room lined with rows and rows of television screens all playing different renditions of their stories. Despite there seemingly being no exit, the women still hold out hope of being able to, once again, see the outside world; though, with Hades, God of the Underworld, being the mastermind behind their current situation, the odds are slim to none.

Director's Notes

I never thought that I'd be directing a one act at Brock in this way. Well, I never thought I'd be directing a one act in general – it being online is just another factor that I hadn't considered. But now, I'm so happy that I've pushed forward and committed to this. The skills I've learned and the memories I've managed to make have been worth the amount of time spent trying to figure out how to make theatre online – there's certainly some blood, sweat, and tears apart of this show. But man, when I say it was worth every second, I really mean it.

I had only recently gotten into Greek Myth in my life (now I've moved on to learning about Norse Myth, but that's another story) so finding a script that includes two popular characters from Greek Mythology was almost like winning the lottery. This script had an interesting take on characters that already existed in media and me, being in love with character work, took that as an opportunity to dig right in. Who knew Juliet, Eurydice, and Hades had so much more going on beyond their classic stories?

Though, the main thing I'd like to do is send out a bunch of thank yous because I definitely could not have done this by myself.

So, thank you.

To Gyllian, for giving me excellent feedback/advice that I could use for this project and for many others in the future.

To my actors, for managing to put up with my slight crazy – that's quite the skill if I do say so myself.

To the production team, thank you for existing! Without any of you, there would be no One Act Festival and I would have no clue how to go about an online theatre production.

To my close friends, who also had to put up with my crazy as I talked to them on many occasions about how to make my One Act work.

And to everyone watching. It warms my heart to know that you took time out of your day to spend watching something I've created. I'm proud of it and happy that I get to show it off to you.

So, again, thank you.

- Michael C.

The M Word

Synopsis: The M Word is a heartbreaking story about two people struggling with emotion and marriage. The M Word aims to tackle how the pursuit of control ultimately leads to powerlessness. Juggling visceral comedy with emotional drama in an expressionistic tangle of laughter and heartbreak, our journey stars the Man, asking the Woman to... merge? While these people struggle with the concepts of marriage and the emotional stakes of their relationship, we see their walls slowly and subtly breaking and we get a peek at who they truly are. This piece is a display of the silent battles they face every day, and how their compulsive natures to schedule their lives ultimately leads to a disconnect from each other... and reality itself.

Director's Notes

My life has been filled with varying perspectives on marriage, which gave me a great insight into working on this piece. As a kid, I knew people who were happily married, in common-law relationships, divorced, and even unhappily married or separated. Really, I just had a crazy family. Reeeeeaaaaally crazy. I, however, saw this as an opportunity when I took on this play, *The M Word*. As I went through this process, I started to realize the biggest problems that plagued these relationships. Gonna make you guess that one! Everything can't just be handed to you.

This process, in all honesty, was an absolute rollercoaster. Having to say "in these uncertain times" is becoming a chore at this point, but it is the truth. After a year riddled with uncertainty and chaos, it was at first comforting to get acquainted with these characters who seem so obsessed with control and order. Not long after, though, I found that they are just as chaotic as we are. Knowing that kinda stung - but after looking at it further, I started to respect the chaos and the lessons I gained from it. You cannot control every element of your life, because the lack of control is what makes it fun. Overall, the chaos is what makes life interesting. Understand the chaos, and embrace it.

PS. Read the first letter of each word, there's a special message throughout!

Matt

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Faculty Supervisor: Gyllian Raby CAEA

Costume Designer: Julian Corlett

Technical Director: Alex Sykes

Head of Wardrobe: Roberta Doylend

Head of Stage Construction: Ed Harris

Technical Advisor: Gavin Fearon

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Department of Dramatic Arts acknowledges that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

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