

Madison New Works Lab 2022

Thank you for joining us for the MNWL 2022 play readings. Just by being here, you are supporting new work and the playwriting process. For ten days, playwrights Alan Stewart and Rita Anderson have been cutting, adding, rewriting, talking, playing and exploring their scripts with JMU students, faculty and instructors. Tonight you will hear the latest draft and next week, there may be another draft. The plays continue to shift and evolve and that is what MNWL is all about; creating a space for playwrights to take their work further and then hear it out loud in a reading with JMU students. These two plays were selected from over a hundred plays and we are thrilled to host Alan and Rita. Thanks for joining us.

Ingrid De Sanctis, MNWL Chair

MNWL would like to thank the following: Kate Arecchi, Anne Harbison, Dean Ruben Graciani, Karin Tolefson, Brian Smallwood, Stephen Spera, Lynnsey Kelley, the many JMU STAD alumni, faculty and faculty emeritus for being readers in the selection process. Special thanks to Linda and Paul Holland

Poster Design: Anna Christensen

MNWL 2021-22 Committee Members:

Kate Arecchi, Ingrid De Sanctis, Ben Lambert

Check out our Facebook page to see what we've been up to:

<https://fb.me/e/2HglrYBG6>

Madison New Works Laboratory (MNWL) is an incubator for the development of new plays housed in the School of Theatre and Dance. Each selected artist is provided an opportunity to develop their work with a community of artists at JMU through conversations, rehearsals, and a festival of public readings. Following each script in-hand reading, there will be a conversation with the playwright about their work.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

7:30 pm FORBES STUDIO THEATRE

Of a Feather by Alan Stewart

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

2 pm-3 pm, FORBES STUDIO THEATRE

MEET THE PLAYWRIGHTS!

Join us for a conversation with playwrights,

Rita Anderson and Alan Stewart

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

7:30 pm FORBES STUDIO THEATRE

Lightning Girl! by Rita Anderson

MNWL is made possible by the generosity of Paul and Linda Holland.

Of a Feather

by Alan Stewart

There will be a ten-minute intermission

Director.....Ingrid De Sanctis

Assistant Director/

Stage Manager.....Anna Christensen

Movement Consultant.....Julia Vessey

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

SYLVIA.....Camille Pivetta

VOICE OF SYLVIA.....Theresa Carpinelli

JONATHAN.....Nick Moxley

MELANIE LAPPIN.....Maddie Miller

STAGE DIRECTIONS.....Anna Christensen

Alan Stewart has spent his adult life as a veterinary internist writing veterinary medical records, some would say creatively. He started two veterinary specialty /emergency hospitals. He also was one of the original founders of the non profit organization San Francisco Aid for Animals, which to date has saved the lives of over 653 pets and is about to go national. Alan now focuses his creative energies on playwriting. Over the years he has attended playwriting classes at Dramatist Guild, ACT, Playwrights Foundation, Kennedy Center Playwrights' Intensive and Berkeley Rep. His "Final Fire", a short play examining the human animal bond had a production by UpMarket productions. "In Our Bones" was a semi-finalist for Bay Area Playwrights Festival in 2018 and The Gary Marshall Theatre in 2020. It also had a "rough-read" produced by Playwrights Foundation. His short, "I Love You, Mirabella" had a professional zoom reading for Plays and Pizza from NYC in October 2021.

Lightning Girl!

by Rita Anderson

75 minutes with no intermission

Director.....Garret Milton

Assistant Director.....Becca Stehle

Stage Manager.....Juleanna Green

Movement Consultant.....Julia Vessey

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

JULIANE.....Olivia Palmer

MOTHER.....Makayla Parker

SHAPESHIFTER.....Camden Gillespie

SHAPESHIFTER.....Gavin Kiley

STAGE DIRECTIONS.....Aamir Alloo

Rita Anderson, an internationally-published and award-winning writer, has an MFA Creative Writing and an MA Playwriting. Rita served as a Dramatists Guild Regional Representative and as Faculty at Interlochen. She went on scholarship to The O'Neill, and Frantic is the Carousel was the National Partners American Theatre nominee. Rita won the Ken Ludwig Playwriting Award, the top national prize from The Kennedy Center for "Best Body of Work," and she's had over 100 productions and as many literary publications to include SMITH & KRAUS's BEST NEW 10-MINUTE PLAYS (years 2019, 2020, 2021, & 2022) and in their BEST NEW WOMEN'S MONOLOGUES (2019, 2020, and 2022). She also has a play in She Persisted: Thirty New Ten-Minute Plays by Women 40+ (Introduction by Theresa Rebeck. APPLAUSE BOOKS). Early Liberty, Final Conversations, The 27 Club, and Woman Hollering Creek are all on the publishers' "Best Selling Plays" lists, and Rita has developed work with The 24-Hour Plays Project, Woven Theatre The Loom New Works Festival, HBMG Foundation and Creede Repertory Theatre, The PlayGround Experiment, Reading Theater Project, The Barrow Group, Mildred's Umbrella Museum of Dysfunction, Moving Parts Theatre (Paris, France), and Rita was a pilot playwright for Hyde Park Theatre Writers' Group, but the highlight of her emerging career so far was sitting on a playwriting panel with Christopher Durang. Rita is also a two-time Pushcart Prize nominee for her books: The Entropy of Rocketman (Finishing Line Press) and Watched Pots (A Lovesong to Motherhood).