



SOUTHBANK
THEATRE COMPANY

PROUDLY PRESENTS

Rabbit

By Nina Raine

*"Who are the
great women now?"*

Directed by Marcia Eppich-Harris

DEC 2 ND - 12 TH

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About the Playwright:

After graduating from Oxford, Nina Raine began her career as a trainee director at the Royal Court Theatre. She dramaturged and directed the hard-hitting verbatim play UNPROTECTED at the Liverpool Everyman, for which she won both the TMA best Director Award and the Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award for an Outstanding Production on a Human Rights Theme. Her debut play, RABBIT, which she also directed, premiered at the Old Red Lion Theatre in 2006 and after a sell out run transferred to the Trafalgar

Studios in the West End before being produced as part of the Brits off Broadway festival in New York. The play earned her the Charles Wintour Evening Standard Award for Most Promising Playwright as well as the Critics Circle Award for most Promising Playwright. She directed her second play, Tiger Country, at Hampstead Theatre. Her commission for the Royal Court Theatre, TRIBES, directed by Roger Michel, enjoyed a sell out run and won an Offie award for best New Play. It was also nominated for both Olivier and Evening Standard Awards for Best New Play. Tribes had its North American Premiere at the Barrow Street Theatre in New York in 2012 where it won the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding New Play, the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, and the Off-Broadway Alliance Award. Tribes has also been produced in Hamburg, Budapest, Sao Paolo, Zargreb, Wellington and Melbourne. There were thirteen upcoming productions in the USA including at the Steppenwolf, Chicago. Nina has also directed at the Royal Court Theatre: SHADES, which went on to win Critics Circle and Evening Standard Awards for Most Promising Newcomer, and JUMPY, which then extended its run at the Duke OfYorks Theatre in the West End. Her most recent outing as director was LONGING by William Boyd at the Hampstead Theatre.





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A Note From the Director:

I first heard of Nina Raine when I saw a production of her play *Tribes* at the Phoenix Theatre in Indy. I immediately wanted to read and see more of Raine's work. I interviewed her in 2014 and published an article about her first play, *Rabbit*, which you're seeing today. Since then, I've interviewed Raine a couple more times and traveled to London to see the world premieres of her plays *Consent* and *Stories*.

Almost all Raine's plays feature a domineering father figure with families trying to cope with his belligerence. *Rabbit* is no different. The interesting feature of the play, however, is how Bella's attempt to distance herself from her father and become her own person backfires. Irony is ripe throughout the play, and Raine's wit shines through Bella's taboo proclamations. Nothing is off the table for these friends as they celebrate Bella's birthday, not knowing that her father is dying of cancer as they drink away their evening.

The cast of this show has worked hard to bring *Rabbit* to life and watching the development of the cast has been a joy! Since this is my directorial debut, I want to thank my talented and experienced actors for their collaborative spirits. We have all contributed special moments to this play, and for that I am ever grateful.

WELCOME FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to Southbank's Inaugural Season: What's Past is Prologue

Southbank's mission is to produce plays and musicals of historical and contemporary significance. We continue our season with Nina Raine's *Rabbit*, a play that shows how family history impacts our lives for better or worse. Raine's work is highly acclaimed in Britain, and her play *Tribes* has had critical success in America. Our production of *Rabbit* is its regional premier.

All of us have family histories that impact our lives – from the way we handle household chores to the way we treat our romantic partners. Can thinking about our familial influences help us make better choices? Are we even aware that different choices are possible?

The characters in this play have an extreme lack of self-awareness. An example in the beginning of the play is when Emily and Bella are discussing a doctor who is deaf. Emily's jealousy of the doctor uses ableist language and is quite offensive. However, Raine's ironic point is to show how unaware these characters are of their own metaphorical deafness. They cannot listen to each other, nor give each other grace. Bella particularly struggles, completely unaware that her rejection of love and warmth make her a carbon copy of her father – a man she hates and loves in equal measure.

We need to understand one's family's influences to learn who we are and how we came to be. As we follow Bella's journey toward understanding, we laugh at the absurdity that comes with a lack of self-awareness. But who among us hasn't been there a time or two?



BY NINA RAINE
DIRECTED BY MARCIA EPPICH-HARRIS

Cast

Bella
Emily
Richard
Tom
Sandy
Bell's Father

Emily Ann Scott
Trick Blanchfield
Ryan Powell
Brant Hughes
Joy Shurn
Craig Kemp

Crew

Assistant Director: Betty Bruther
Stage Manager: Yolanda Valdivia
Lighting Design: Eric Matters
Sound Design: Marcia Eppich-Harris

Content warning: language, adult content, sexual situations, death/grief



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Actor Bios

Emily Scott (BELLA)

Emily Ann Scott is an actress and writer making her Indianapolis debut with Rabbit. Her notable theatre credits include: Mrs. Warren's Profession (Vivie Warren), To Kill A Mockingbird (Mayella), An Iliad (The Muse), and Picasso's Women (Jacqueline Picasso). Her on-screen accomplishments include starring in REPRESENT, a comedy web series she wrote and produced, and appearing alongside Patrick Wilson in A Kind of Murder. Among her screenwriting distinctions, Emily has earned recognitions from ScreenCraft, BlueCat, and the Women in Horror Film Festival. In addition to thanking her family and the Rabbit cast and team, Emily would like to dedicate her performance to the memory of her father, David Scott, who spent his life making sure she would feel loved forever.



Ryan Powell (RICHARD)

is proud to return to the stage after two years off. Ryan has been heavily involved in companies around Indianapolis that regularly produce original works including Q Artistry (PERRY HAUGHTER AND THE MAGICAL MUSICAL, ZIRKUSGRIMM, and BOT [A ROBOT MUSICAL]), Catalyst (ARCADEFIRE [THE REDEMPTION OF BILLY MITCHELL], HELL'S 4TH RING [THE MALL MUSICAL], and TORTILLO! 2 [DICKENS RISING]), and independent projects (MAKE ME A MATCH by Matt Day and HOW TO KILL by Gabe Gloden). When not performing, Ryan works in commercial real estate management and finance. He'd like to thank Marcia for the opportunity, the cast for their talent, and his wife Carrie for being awesome.



Trick Blanchfield (EMILY)

Trick is currently an Indianapolis author, actor + immaculate shade whose first love, as a perpetual student of the world, has always been mythology, ancient history + classic literature. Their first book of poetry + flash fiction, 'V.i.t.r.i.i.o.l.', is available on Amazon - or by asking nicely - & 'Permafrost' will be published through Indianapolis' own Vedere Press very soon, to shortly be followed by 'petals.þs.' Although fairly new to this city, their artwork + photography have been presented in various galleries around town & while performing on stage has been a delight only recently pursued within the past few years, performing as Emily in a work as brilliant as this one by Nina Raine, wonderfully directed by Marcia Eppich-Harris, is an honor they are only too grateful to fulfill.



Actor Bios

Brant Hughes (TOM)

Brant (he/him) is an Interaction Designer at the Westfield-based software firm SEP. He has also served on many non-profit boards, include Monroe County Civic Theater, Garfield Shakespeare Company, and Indy Design Collaborative. Some of his favorite theatrical roles include George Bailey in It's A Wonderful Life (Monroe County Civil Theater), Baron Fitzwater in Shakespeare's Henriad (Garfield Shakespeare Company), and Captain Phoebus in the musical The Hunchback of Notre Dame (Brooks & Bourke Theater Company). Brant is thrilled to join the talented cast of Rabbit under the direction of Marcia Eppich-Harris to help bring this exceptional play to life. He would like to thank his wife, Yolanda Valdivia, for her love, her unwavering support, and for introducing him to the world of theater.



Joy Shurn (SANDY)

Joy is a native of South Bend Indiana but currently resides in Indianapolis, Indiana with her three children. She is a cutting-edge leader as a licensed Cosmetologist and has been blazing new trails in the hair care industry for over 7 years. Joy developed a passion for theater and performing arts as a young child where she started performing in church productions. She has since grown in her craft and has performed in productions with The Caring Place Performing Arts Ministry, Green Light Production LLC., and Indiana Playwright Circle 10 minutes Play Festival. Joy's hobbies include physical fitness, singing, and spending quality time with family and friends. Joy would like to thank her family and friends for consistently supporting her. She would also like to thank the director Marcia Eppich-Harris for allowing her the opportunity to be a part of this amazing production!



Craig Kemp (FATHER)

Craig Kemp is thrilled to have been cast in this South Bank Theatre Company production. Favorite roles from the last 9 years since he took up acting again include: Gloucester in First Folio Productions' King Lear, Ross in their production of Macbeth, Egeon in Improbable Fiction Company's A Comedy of Errors, Montague in Catalyst Theater Company's Romeo and Juliet, and as Dorn in their production of The Seagull, and minor roles in Eclectic Pond's A Midsummer Night's Dream and The Great Bicycle Race; Frank Doel in Epilogue Theater's 84 Charing Cross Road, Clown 1 in CCP's The 39 Steps, Elisha Whitney in Footlite Musicals' Anything Goes, and, for Mud Creek Players (his 'home base'): Senex in A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum, Sancho Panza in Man of La Mancha, Sergeant Toomey in Biloxi Blues, and Juror 8 in Twelve Angry Jurors. London-born, he grew up in the South East of England, and eventually settled in Indianapolis. He wishes to thank family and friends for their support and encouragement.



Creative Team

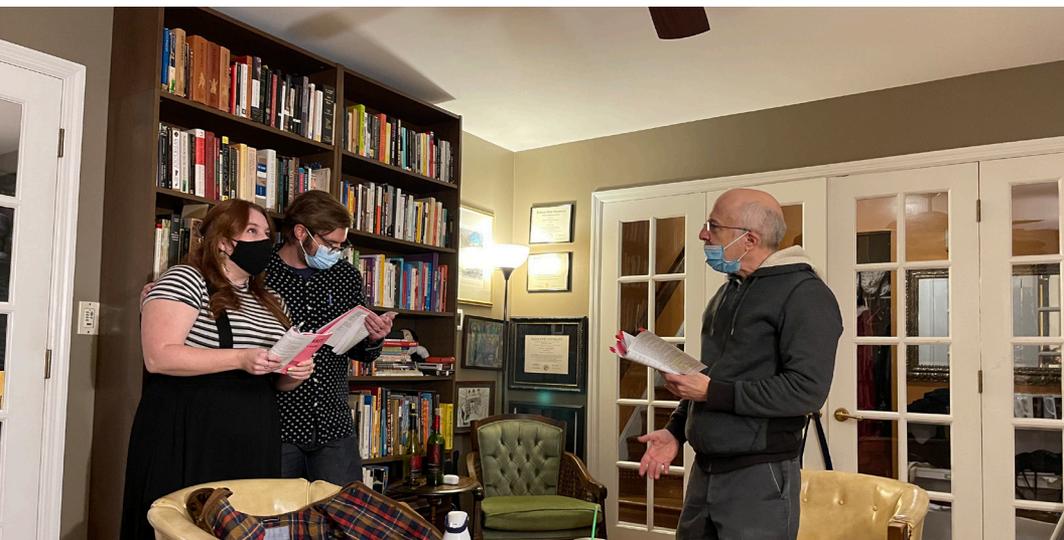
Marcia Eppich-Harris (DIRECTOR)

Marcia taught Shakespeare and dramatic literature at the college level for roughly fifteen years. Having left academia for far greener pastures, Marcia is now a playwright and the artistic director of Southbank Theatre Company. She is a founding member of the Indiana Playwrights Circle (IPC), where she is the Scene Nights Coordinator and serves on the steering committee. Marcia's writing includes plays, fiction, poetry, scholarship, and reviews — all influenced by the literature and history of the ancient Greeks and Romans, the British Medieval and Renaissance periods, as well as current events. In her creative writing, she focuses thematically on politics, philosophy, the arts, gender, family, and culture.



Betty Bruther (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR)

Betty J. Bruther is an independent scholar who writes about military history, Irish revolutionaries, and serial murder. She has taught both history and geography at the college level, most recently at Marian University and Oakland City University at the Indiana Women's Prison.



Creative Team

Yolanda Valdivia (STAGE MANAGER)

Yolanda is an Executive Relationship Manager for UKG. She is thrilled to join Southbank Theatre's production of Rabbit. Yolanda recently finished a run of DreamGirls (Ensemble-Technical Daner/Stage Manager) with KaidyDid Production and participated in the 10-Minute Play Festival- Terms and Conditions (Ari).



Eric Matters (LIGHTING DESIGN)

Eric is glad to be working on Rabbit. Eric can be found working various technical parts of the theater arts at any number of community theaters around Indiana. He would like to thank Marcia Eppich-Harris for the opportunity to work on this production. He would also like to thank his family for bringing him into this adventure and supporting him throughout.



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Thank You to Our Donors

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