

ARTIST BIOS

ALISSA BARTHEL (*Stage Manager*) is a Twin Cities based stage manager and is thrilled to be a part of this production. Her recent credits include assistant stage managing for the UMN BFA program's show *Argonautika* and stage managing for BARd Shakes. In her work, she is passionate about prioritizing actors' wellbeing and production organization to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all involved in the theater-making process. By day, Alissa is an Event Planner for D'Amico Catering. In her free time, she enjoys traveling and being outdoors.

PATRICK BRIEN (*Producer*) is a California-based arts professional who was recently appointed the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Arts Orange County. He is collaborating remotely on *Mary's Wondrous Body* after co-producing The Birth Play Project's last production, *Aquelarres*, in 2021. He has produced, acted, and directed for companies from Hawaii to Europe. He has run theaters in Germany and Wyoming, and more recently founded and served as Producing Artistic Director of The Gestalt Theatre Project in Riverside, CA, for which he has staged several regional and west coast premieres.

SARAH BROUDE (*Ann*) is a performer, director, and educator in the Twin Cities. She is a Teaching Artist at Stages Theatre Company and with the Chicago Avenue Project at the Pillsbury House Theatre. Sarah also teaches individual, adult and youth acting classes, and facilitates an adult scene study class on Sundays. Sarah has worked with numerous companies locally and around the country. You can also catch her on TV in her second commercial spot with the Minnesota Wild and Kris Lindahl Real Estate. Sarah is thrilled to be a part of this incredible production and hopes you enjoy the show as much as she did working on it with these talented folks.

TESSA DAHLGREN (*Violence Choreographer, u/s Olive*) is an actor, dialect coach, and violence choreographer in the Twin Cities. Recent acting credits include *FARM* and its sister performance *TABLE* with Sod House Theater, *A Bear* with Clevername Theatre, and *Tituba* with Picnic Basket Theatre. She regularly performs and produces with BARd Shakes. Whether onstage or behind the scenes, Tessa loves bringing new life to old work and bringing new work to life.

URIYAH DALMAN (*Lighting Designer*) is a non-binary high school performer, lighting designer, and sound engineer, based in the Twin Cities. Their recent credits include sound design for Dave Malloy's *Ghost Quartet*, lighting design for *Flight of Short Musicals* (both of which were performed here at Elision), and lighting and sound design for monthly variety shows and seasonal dance showcases at the Performing Institute of Minnesota high school in Eden Prairie, MN. They aim to branch off into the world of robotic prosthetics during college while still keeping the charm of theater around by doing lighting and sound design on the side. Though they may be off in the world of technical theater, Uriyah still aims to create a strong bond with the entire cast.

ARTIST BIOS (cont.)

ISABELLA DUNSIETH (*Mary*) is an actor, writer, and deviser in the Twin Cities. Since receiving her BFA at the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Actor Training Program, she has made her way into improv and sketch comedy. She is a co-founder and player with the group *Latins On ICE*, which premiered a show of the same name in January of 2020. She recently made her Brave New Workshop debut with *This Show is Cheaper Than Gas* and can currently be seen in Walking Shadow Theater Company's *Cabal*. Isabella believes in making theater that delights and unsettles, making you laugh while also making you think.

EMMA LAI (*Producer*) is a director, producer, and playwright originally from Minneapolis. She is Artistic Director and co-founder of Picnic Basket Theatre, a non-profit theatre company based in Minneapolis that focuses on producing and workshopping new work by marginalized communities and supporting early-career artists. Emma was an inaugural member of Theatre Mu's Emerging Playwrights' Circle, assistant directed *Vietgone* at the Guthrie, and serves as associate director to Annie Tippe (recently *Your Own Personal Exegesis* at Lincoln Center; upcoming world premiere of *Cowboy Bob* at the Alley Theatre in Texas). She last collaborated with The Birth Play Project on *Aquelarres*. www.emmaylai.com

NICK MILLER (*Composer / Musician / John Howard, u/s Joshua*) is a Twin Cities based musician and actor. He has recently been collaborator with St. Croix Festival Theater (*The Mousetrap*), Combustible Company (*Monster Heart, The Tempest*), and Mixed Precipitation's Pickup Truck Operetta (*The Magic Flute, Dr. Falstaff and the Working Wives of Lake County, Donald Giovanni*). Before returning to his native Minnesota in 2020, Nick was an active performer in New York City, appearing with many regional opera and musical theater companies. Nick is overjoyed to continue collaborations with such terrific people and companies utilizing theater as a device to examine society in all of its facets and follies.

GILLIAN NESS (*u/s Mags, Mary*) is a Minneapolis based actor, singer, and creative. Before coming home to Minnesota in 2018, she studied acting at Columbia College Chicago and Rose Bruford College in London. She is deeply grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with this group of artists after a lengthy hiatus from theatre. Gillian currently fills her days nannying three wonderful children and teaching herself the ukulele.

EMILY ROSENBERG (*Mags*) is a trans-nonbinary performance and visual artist based in Minneapolis (Dakota Land). They were recently seen in *Romeo and Juliet* (Mercutio; BARd Shakes), *Hands on a Hardbody* (Greg; Minneapolis Musical Theatre), *Top Girls* (Dull Gret/Angie) and *Orlando* (Chorus, u/s Orlando) with Theatre Pro Rata (Company Member). Originally from Chicago, they graduated from the UMN with a dual degree in Business and Marketing Education, and Theatre Arts. Their work is anchored in sharing unheard stories and uplifting trans/GNC artists. Em is proudly serving as the curatorial assistant for the Global Contemporary Art department at the Minneapolis Institute of Art and has a cat named Faust.

ARTIST BIOS (cont.)

LAILA SAHIR (*Olive, u/s Mary*) is a Minneapolis-based actor and theater artist who has performed on stage, on camera, and in audio dramas. Her recent credits include *Cabal* with Walking Shadow Theatre Company and *Aqua Tofana* with Picnic Basket Theatre. She is most passionate about making art that subverts our assumptions about who holds power and why, and she is incredibly grateful to have been able to work on this story with this group of artists. www.LailaSahir.com

MARIABELLA SORINI (*Stage Manager / Costume Designer*) is a theater artist who most recently performed as Harper in Caryl Churchill's *Far Away* with Jackdonkey Productions and Ophelia in *A Little Water* during the 2022 Fringe Festival with Cardboard Suitcase Productions. She also stage managed and performed as Gonzala in Combustible Company's production of *The Tempest* and assistant directed their production of *Monster Heart*. She graduated in 2020 from the University of Minnesota with studies in English Literature and Theater. She is dedicated to telling new, honest, and diverse stories in any and all capacities that provoke, inspire, and uplift previously unheard voices.

TIA TANZER (*Producing & Directing Associate, u/s Ann*) is a theatre artist and writer who last collaborated with The Birth Play Project as an actor in *Aquelarres*. Recent local work includes BARd Shakes' *Romeo and Juliet*, Picnic Basket Theatre's *The Changeling*, and Theatre Unbound's *The Penelopiad*. Tia served as a Minneapolis public school teacher before pivoting to the nonprofit sector following the birth of their daughter, Ronya, in April of this year. Tia has extensive experience working on educational, literary, and community-focused pursuits, and she is passionate about language and social justice.

CALEB WAGNER (*Joshua*) is a Minneapolis-based actor. Before moving to Minneapolis in 2018, Caleb studied acting with the Barrow Group Theater Company in New York. He is thrilled to be returning to theater after a three year hiatus and feels indescribably grateful to be able to help tell this story with such a deeply skilled, caring group of artists.

MADELINE WALL (*Playwright, Director, Producer*) is grateful to have found an artistic home for the colder months at Elision, after directing her last two productions — *Romeo and Juliet* and Joel F. Wilshire's *Aquelarres* — in the woods (on the property of a generous church). Madeline's last original work, *I With Things New Born*, was The Birth Play Project's inaugural production in 2020. She also acts and freelances as an intimacy choreographer. Madeline published an article in the Minnesota Women's Press called "Placing Birth in Public Memory," and she would love to listen to your birth story. www.MadelineWallTheatre.com