

The Birth Play Project presents

Mary's Wondrous Body

written & directed by Madeline Wall



CAST OF CHARACTERS

Isabella Dunsieith (*she/her*)

MARY TOFT

Caleb Wagner (*he/him*)

JOSHUA TOFT, Mary's husband

Sarah Broude (*she/her*)

ANN TOFT, Mary's mother-in-law, a midwife
also plays a gossip and a physician

Emily Rosenberg (*they/them*)

MAGS TOFT, Ann's oldest living child
also plays a gossip and a physician

Laila Sahir (*she/her*)

OLIVE SANDS, a neighbor
also plays a physician

Nick Miller (*he/him*)

MUSICIAN / JOHN HOWARD, a surgeon

Figures Unseen

JAMES TOFT, Mary & Joshua's 2-year-old son.

ANNIE TOFT, Mary & Joshua's firstborn. Died in infancy three years ago.

LIZA TOFT, Mary's late sister-in-law. Died six years ago from a postpartum infection following a stillbirth.

To get you started...

Mary Toft was real. She was 23 years old in 1726. That year, she both lost a pregnancy and captivated a country by pretending to give birth to rabbits. We will never know why either of these events happened.

Maternal impression is the concept, widely believed in both popular and academic circles during Mary's lifetime, that a pregnant person's imagination can impact the physical formation of a fetus.

The events that inspired the play occurred in England in 1726, but Mary endeavors to bring this story to you, where you are situated, in every way she can. This is why the production sounds, looks, and (hopefully) feels as though it is happening closer to here, and closer to today.

Mary will ask you some difficult questions. We invite you to raise your hands and find one another.



CW: discussion of miscarriage & infant death, depiction of childbirth & medical violence.

UNDERSTUDIES

For Mary: Laila Sahir, Gillian Ness (*she/they*)

For Joshua: Nick Miller

For Ann: Tia Tanzer (*she/they*)

For Mags: Gillian Ness*

For Olive: Tessa Dahlgren* (*she/her*)

*performing on December 9th

PRODUCTION TEAM

Alissa Barthel (*she/her*), Stage Manager

Patrick Brien (*he/him*), Producer

Tessa Dahlgren (*she/her*), Violence Choreographer

Uriyah Dalman (*they/he*), Lighting Designer

Emma Lai (*she/her*), Producer

Mariabella Sorini (*she/they*), SM / Costume Designer

Tia Tanzer (*she/they*), Producing & Directing Associate

Madeline Wall (*she/her*), Writer / Director / Producer



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Rabbit construction by Tia Tanzer.

Music: lyrics & melodies by Madeline Wall;
cello & piano composition by Joni Griffith,
Nick Miller, and Harrison Wade.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to Professor JB Shank of the University of Minnesota History Department for providing the perfect reading material, thereby making this play possible.

Thank you to the generous readers & dramaturgs who contributed to script development, including but not limited to Joel F. Wilshire, Patrick Brien, Madeline Folstein, Helena Mueller, Seth Campbell, Jordan Bongaarts, Rachel Rougas, Gillian Constable, Isabella Dunsieith, Katelyn Tseng McLane, Mel Fellows, Laila Sahir, Annie Schiferl, and Tia Tanzer.

Thank you to Cindy Polich, Christine and Harrison Wade, Lindsay Fitzgerald, and the entire Elision Playhouse team for making this place and its people the most welcoming home for this project that I could have dreamed of.

Thank you to Haley and Anthony Sisler-Neuman of Graceful Monsters for generously lending us the materials that became most of our set!

Thank you to Kezia Florence Germ for our logo and poster design, and for her enduring creativity.

Thank you to photographer / videographer Seth Campbell, our process' consistent chronicler & most profound witness.

Thank you to Joni Griffith, Harrison Wade, and Nick Miller for lending your time and composition skills to our brand new music, written almost entirely in *recitative*!

Thank you to Katherine Wall and her colleagues for their generous expert consultation.

Thank you to the wonderful Emily Garst for our production photos.