

THE MARSH SAN FRANCISCO PRESENTS
LYNNE KAUFMAN'S LATEST WORK
EXTREME ACTS

8:00pm Saturdays & 5:00pm Sundays
May 11 – June 2, 2024

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (8 May 2024) — The world premiere of *Extreme Acts* by award-winning playwright **Lynne Kaufman**, which was originally announced as a two-play production at **The Marsh San Francisco** has now been updated to a 60-minute standalone performance. Directed by **Molly Noble**, this new intense and innovative work – still titled *Extreme Acts* – follows a passionate performance artist who challenges the limits of endurance in life and love, performed by **Arwen Anderson** and **Johnny Moreno**. “How fortunate we are to be working at The Marsh, a breeding ground for new performances, and a theater company that supports what’s best for a new play,” said Kaufman about the change. “After writing two dozen plays about people who mostly live in their heads, this play is about two people who mostly live in their bodies. That shift called for the services of an intimacy coach and an expert sound designer, both of which are new collaborations for me. *Extreme Acts* called for space to build an open, sturdy, and safe structure for the actors to feel free to use their instincts and highlight the complexity and truth of their characters.” *Extreme Acts* will be presented Saturdays at 8:00pm and Sundays at 5:00pm, **May 11-June 2, 2024**, (*press opening: 8:00pm, Saturday, May 11*) at **The Marsh San Francisco**, 1062 Valencia Street, San Francisco. For information or to order tickets (\$25-\$35 adult general admission sliding scale; \$50-\$100 reserved), the public may visit themarsh.org.

In *Extreme Acts*, Kaufman took inspiration from Serbian conceptual artist and performer Marina Abramović, who created extreme works that tested her physical limits and invited audiences to violate her person. *Extreme Acts* encompasses two risk takers as they explore the boundaries of love and life through their high adrenaline adventure. This world premiere play by Kaufman introduces the strong and charismatic Sophia (played by Anderson) preparing for the last night of her performance art piece “Being Present,” where she has sat immobile for eight hours a day for three months establishing and maintaining eye contact with a thousand visitors, one at a time. As

she gets ready, Sophia relives a similar piece she performed with her lover, Jasper, a former extreme sports jumper (played by Moreno). Reflecting on Jasper's and Sophia's tumultuous relationship, Sophia ultimately discovers what it takes to create a lasting union.

ABOUT THE CAST AND CREATIVES

Arwen Anderson (Performer) returns to The Marsh where she worked with Lynne Kaufman on a staged reading of her musical, *Map of Your Mind*. Selected regional credits include *Testmatch*, *Men On Boats*, *Heisenberg*, *Let There Be Love*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Tales of the City* (workshop) at A.C.T.; *King Lear*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *The Verona Project* (world premiere) at California Shakespeare Theatre; *August: Osage County*, *Anne Boleyn*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *Bellwether* (world premiere), and *A Streetcar Named Desire* at Marin Theatre Company; *An Accident*, *Mrs. Whitney*, *Expedition 6*, *The Rules of Charity* (all world premieres), and *Mauritius* at Magic Theatre; *A White Girl's Guide to International Terrorism*, *The Fit*, and *77%* at San Francisco Playhouse; *Miss Julie* at Stanford Rep; *Lobby Hero* and *The Shape of Things* at Aurora Theatre Company; *You Know When the Men Are Gone* and *4 Adverbs* with Word for Word; and roles with American Stage Festival, San Jose Repertory Theatre, Marin Shakespeare Company, Brava Theater, Encore Theatre Company, and Central Works Theater Company. Her film work includes *Hog Island*, *Ashley 22*, and *Dark Retreat*.

Johnny Moreno (Performer) has appeared at theatres throughout the Bay Area including A.C.T., Berkeley Repertory Theatre, San Francisco Playhouse, San Jose Stage Company, Marin Shakespeare Company, Center Repertory Company, Marin Theatre Company, Crowded Fire Theater, Thick Description and Pacific Repertory Theatre. Favorite roles include Iago in *Othello*, Macheath in *The Threepenny Opera* (TBA Award for Best Actor in a Musical), Ralph Bates in *Period of Adjustment*, Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady* (SFBATCC Award for Best Actor in a Musical), Palo in *Gibraltar*, Mortimer in *Mary Stuart*, and Stanley Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Film and television credits include *Betas*, *Callback* (winner of the Chicago Indie Fest for Best Film), *Upside Out* (with Olympia Dukakis), *Paradise Club*, and *I'm Still Here* (with Joaquin Phoenix).

Molly Noble's (Director) recent directing projects include *A Doll's House* and *Twelfth Night* at College of Marin, *Cry It Out* at Cinnabar Theater. Past directing credits include *The Kepler Story* (CU Boulder's Fiske Planetarium), *The Surrogate* (Centenary Stage Company, NJ), *Bad Dates* (Cinnabar) *Middletown*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *David Copperfield*, *The River Bride*, *Seagull*, *Arabian Nights*, *Maple and Vine*, *Misalliance*. *Almost, Maine*, and *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* (College of Marin), *You Can't Take It with You* and *The Prince and The Pauper* (Conservatory Theater Ensemble/Tam Drama). She has directed projects with incarcerated artists at San Quentin. Noble has acted with Shotgun Players, San Francisco Playhouse, Z Space's Word for Word, Aurora Theatre Company, Cinnabar Theater, Shakespeare & Performing Arts Regional Company (SPARC), Main Stage West, and her own Porchlight Theatre Co.

Lynne Kaufman (Playwright) is the author of 20 full-length plays that have been produced in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Washington D.C., and Louisville at such theatres as Magic Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, and many more – with *Extreme Acts* being her most recent work. Four of Kaufman's plays, *Acid Test*, *Two Minds*, *Who Killed Sylvia Plath*, and *Poetic Justice* have premiered on stage at The Marsh, while two others, *Exposing Margaret Mead* and *The Smartest Woman in America* have appeared on The Marsh's digital

platform, MarshStream. *Who Killed Sylvia Plath* went on to win Best Play in The Marsh's 2020 MarshStream International Solo Festival. Kaufman's plays have won many awards including the Glickman Award for Best New Play (*The Couch*), the Kennedy Center's Fund for New American Plays Award (*Speaking in Tongues*), and the Neil Simon Festival New Play Award (*William Blake in Hollywood*). Kaufman has published four novels and her short stories have appeared in *Cosmopolitan*, *Redbook*, and *McCall's*. She was also the recipient of the Otis Guernsey Outstanding New Voice in American Theatre Award from the William Inge Theatre Festival.

ABOUT THE MARSH

The Marsh is known as “a breeding ground for new performance.” Launched in 1989 by Founder and Artistic Director Stephanie Weisman, it annually hosts more than 500 performances across the company's two venues in San Francisco and Berkeley. A leading outlet for solo performers, The Marsh's specialty has been hailed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as “solo performances that celebrate the power of storytelling at its simplest and purest.” The *East Bay Times* named The Marsh one of the Bay Area's best intimate theaters, calling it “one of the most thriving solo theaters in the nation. The live theatrical energy is simply irresistible.” In April 2020, The Marsh launched its digital platform MarshStream and hosted more than 700 live streams which provided 300 performers and its youth class participants a platform to continue discovering, developing, and producing art during the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown. Today, The Marsh presents both in-person live performances and content on its MarshStream, continuing to expand its reach to audiences onsite and around the world. The Marsh believes in the power of people's storytelling and has several classes for the public to create their own works as well as through its developing work performance series: Monday Night Marsh, Tell It on Tuesday, and Marsh Risings. The theater company also collaborates with over 25 San Francisco public schools providing a year-round youth program serving students at its theater and in the classrooms.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: The world premiere of *Extreme Acts* by award-winning playwright **Lynne Kaufman**, which was originally announced as a two-play production at **The Marsh San Francisco** has now been updated to a 60-minute standalone performance. Directed by **Molly Noble**, this new intense and innovative work – still titled *Extreme Acts* – follows a passionate performance artist who challenges the limits of endurance in life and love, performed by **Arwen Anderson** and **Johnny Moreno**.

***Extreme Acts* is:**

Written by Lynne Kaufman

Directed by Molly Noble

Performed by Arwen Anderson and Johnny Moreno

WHEN: **May 11 – June 2, 2024**

Opening Night: 8:00pm, Saturday, May 11

SHOWS: 8:00pm Saturdays
5:00pm Sundays

WHERE: **The Marsh San Francisco, 1062 Valencia St., San Francisco**
*Parking: New Mission Bartlett Garage, 3255 21st St.
(21st St between Mission & Valencia)
BART station (closest): Mission & 24th Street*

TICKETS: \$25-\$35 sliding scale; \$50 and \$100 reserved

INFO: For information or to order tickets visit themarsh.org or call **415-282-3055**
(Monday through Friday, 1:00pm-4:00pm).

-30-

PRESS: Contact Courtney Heimbeck, Carla Befera & Co.
courtney@cb-pr.com | 650-308-4390

PHOTOS: Downloadable high-res photos are available here:
<https://cbpr.co/press/extremeacts>