THE MARSH PRESENTS
WORLD PREMIERE COMEDY OF SUB-PERSONALITIES
JANET THORNBURG'S
COGNITIVE DIVINE

Written and Performed by Janet Thornburg
Directed by David Ford
With coaching from Tina D'Elia

November 6 – December 11, 2026

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (19 October 2026) — Fresh off a sold-out, award-winning first look at The Marsh's *In Front of Your Eyes Performance Festival*, Playwright and Performer **Janet Thornburg**'s ***Cognitive Divine*** will have its world premiere at **The Marsh San Francisco Studio** this fall. In this rollicking autobiographical comedy, Janet moves from Colorado to San Francisco in 1972, where a closed-head injury, late-in-life love, even-later-in-life parenthood, and a divorce await her, along with a right-wing coup led by one of the seven subpersonalities in her psyche. Wild Child, Rosie, and Mauve love San Francisco; Raisin and Hannah want to go home. Cora soothes Raisin with cinnamon rolls while Hannah frets about sugar. Hannah and Wild Child clash over partying. Rosie wants new clothes and skin care; Mauve wants writers' conferences. Add the shock of becoming an elder, and something has got to give. Janet Thornburg's ***Cognitive Divine*** will be presented **November 6 – December 11, 2026** (*press opening: November 13*) at **The Marsh San Francisco Studio**, 1062 Valencia Street, San Francisco. For tickets ($25-$35 sliding scale, $50 and $100 reserved, plus a $3 convenience fee per ticket) or for more information, the public may visit **themarsh.org**.

Janet Thornburg's ***Cognitive Divine*** had its first performances in August 2026 at the Marsh's *In Front of your Eyes Performance Festival*, selling out The Marsh's San Francisco Studio and amassing the largest livestream audience of any show in the Festival. ***Cognitive Divine*** is the first production from The Marsh's second Festival to see a full transfer, offering returning festival audiences new content developed off the feedback received during its workshop, and

new audiences the chance to catch the world premiere of a groundbreaking new story from this intrepid performer. This exuberant show was awarded Best Comedy and Best Attended Livestream from the Festival's awards. An incubator for groundbreaking new work, the *In Front of Your Eyes Performance Festival* presented 18 full-length developing pieces by women and nonbinary artists, filling a key spot in the nation's solo theater development ecosystem. After the loss of the San Francisco Fringe Festival, *In Front of Your Eyes* presents a new opportunity to uplift the outer edges of the Bay Area's theatrical community.

"This is only the beginning of both an exciting new chapter for The Marsh and a necessary progression of the *In Front of Your Eyes Performance Festival* with a full performance run of ***Cognitive Divine***," said The Marsh's Founder, Artistic/Executive Director **Stephanie Weisman**. "At The Marsh, we aim to craft the storyteller that lives inside everyone, and the festival was created as a part of that mission. We're putting our best foot forward by bringing Janet Thornburg's show to a wider audience first, and this show is hilarious. Often, solo performers will ambitiously craft the characterization of others, but in ***Cognitive Divine***, Thornburg brings forth characters who live inside herself. It's a fascinating look into a dynamic psyche that shouldn't be missed."

ABOUT THE CREATIVES

Janet Thornburg's (*Playwright, Performer*) solo show *Cognitive Divine* won the Best Comedy award at The Marsh's 2026 *In Front of Your Eyes Performance Festival*. She has written and performed eight solo shows in San Francisco at venues including The Marsh, StageWerx Theatre, Theatre Rhinoceros, Theatre of Yugen, Venue Nine, Next Stage Theatre, Young Performers' Theatre, and the Solo Mio Festival. Her multi-character play *Dinner Roles* was presented at the San Francisco Repertory Theatre, and her play *Antony and Cleopatra Meet Godzilla* enjoyed two runs at the Intersection Theatre. Also an author, Thornburg has widely published in literary journals, and *Rhubarb Pie*, a collection of her short stories, was published by Thunderegg Press.

David Ford (*Director*) has been collaborating on new and unusual theater for three decades and has been associated with The Marsh for most of that time. The San Francisco press has variously called him "the solo performer maven," "the monologue maestro," "the dean of solo performance," and "the solo performer's best friend." A week rarely goes by when residents of the Bay Area cannot enjoy one of his productions. Collaborators include Geoff Hoyle, Brian Copeland, Charlie Varon, Echo Brown, Marilyn Pittman, Rebecca Fisher, Wayne Harris, Jill Vice, and Marga Gomez. Ford's work has been seen nationally at The Public Theater, Second

Stage Theater, Theatre at St. Clement's, Dixon Place, Theatre for the New City (New York), Highways Performance Space (Los Angeles), and Woolly Mammoth Theatre Co. (Washington, D.C.). His work has also been featured in most of the fringe festivals in North America, and at theaters around the Bay Area including Berkeley Repertory Theatre, the Magic Theatre, and Marin Theatre Company. Ford's directing has garnered several "Best of Fringe" Awards and a Goldie Award.

Tina D'Elia (*Coach*) is an award-winning Bay Area solo performer, actor, casting director, and co-screenwriter. Her West Coast premiere of *Overlooked Latinas* at the Brava Theater garnered widespread acclaim, with multiple standing ovations and sold-out performances. D'Elia's previous solo show, *The Rita Hayworth of This Generation*, directed by Mary Guzmán, earned both the Best of Fringe and Best of Sold-Out Shows awards at the 2015 San Francisco Fringe Festival. D'Elia has performed her solo work at numerous prestigious venues, including The New Theater, The Theater Offensive, The Marsh Rising Star, Case Western Reserve University, StageWerx, Women on the Way Festival/Shotwell Studios, the National Queer Arts Festival, and Best of LezWrites/3 Girls Theatre Company. Her on-screen credits include feature films such as "The Pursuit of Happyness," "Knife Fight," "Guitar Man," and "Junkie," as well as television and web series like "Trauma" (NBC), "Sense8" (Netflix), and "Dyke Central" (Amazon). In 2010, she was nominated for Best Actress in a Comedy at the San Francisco 48 Hour Film Festival. D'Elia's accolades include being named to *CURVE Magazine*'s Power List in 2017 and receiving numerous awards, such as the Best Actress Award from the Equality International Film Festival (2017), the Diversity Casting Award (2017), and both the Trailblazer Award and Executive Producer Award from the Equality International Film Festival (2015). Additionally, D'Elia co-wrote the short film "Lucha," which won the Frameline33 Film Festival Audience Award in 2009, in collaboration with director Maria Breaux.

ABOUT THE MARSH

The Marsh is known as "a breeding ground for new performance." Launched in 1989 by Founder and Artistic/Executive 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 Rising. The theater company also collaborates with more than 15 San

Francisco public schools providing a year-round youth program serving students at its theater and in the classrooms.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: Fresh off a sold-out, award-winning first look at The Marsh's *In Front of Your Eyes Performance Festival*, Playwright and Performer **Janet Thornburg**'s ***Cognitive Divine*** will have its world premiere at **The Marsh San Francisco Studio** this fall. In this rollicking autobiographical comedy, Janet moves from Colorado to San Francisco in 1972, where a closed-head injury, late-in-life love, even-later-in-life parenthood, and a divorce await her, along with a right-wing coup led by one of the seven subpersonalities in her psyche. Wild Child, Rosie, and Mauve love San Francisco; Raisin and Hannah want to go home. Cora soothes Raisin with cinnamon rolls while Hannah frets about sugar. Hannah and Wild Child clash over partying. Rosie wants new clothes and skin care; Mauve wants writers' conferences. Add the shock of becoming an elder, and something has got to give.

Cognitive Divine is:
Written and Performed by Janet Thornburg
Directed by David Ford
With coaching from Tina D'Elia

WHEN: **7:30pm Fridays, November 6 – December 11, 2026**
Press opening: November 13

WHERE: **The Marsh San Francisco Studio**, **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, plus a $3 convenience fee per ticket

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

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PRESS: Contact Raymond Harris, CBCO Public Relations & Marketing
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PHOTOS: Downloadable high-res photos are available here:
http://cbpr.co/press/cognitivedivine