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MOXIE BLENDS GREEK TRAGEDY AND MAD MEN (MINUS THE MISOGYNY)

Bliss (or Emily Post is Dead!) Opens February 3

January 2018 - Housewives are dutiful. Husbands are brawny. It's 1960 and Emily Post's guide to etiquette is keeping America "great." But in a delicious turn of events, a stranger materializes who might end life as the citizens of North Orange, New Jersey know it. This audacious Joint World Premiere, with Moving Arts (Los Angeles) and Promethean Theatre (Chicago), reimagines the tragic heroines of Greek Mythology as pill-popping housewives in a cautionary tale with deadly consequences.

Founder and former Artistic Director Delicia Turner Sonnenberg returns to MOXIE to direct Jami Brandli's take on the Greek women, tackling issues of race, addiction, divorce ranches, and how to host the perfect afternoon tea. Executive Artistic Director Jennifer Eve Thorn describes why Sonnenberg is perfect for this piece: "Early in my theatre career, I played Antigone in a production which Sonnenberg directed. Her take on this Greek myth, the way she brought it to life for an audience in the present day, and my own experience of playing Antigone left a lasting impression. These Greek tragic figures continue to shape theatre today. Brandli's play reclaims them and Sonnenberg is the perfect director to breathe technicolor life into them."

Featuring a cast of women making their MOXIE debuts, MOXIE reclaims the most notorious female figures in theatre history for mythology buffs and novices alike. Says Thorn: "They're the first representations of women in 'media' that have left a lasting impression on how we see ourselves, for better or for worse. The time is ripe to revisit these characters."



MOXIE Theatre

Directed by Delicia Turner Sonnenberg. The Design and Production Team includes: Set Design, Victoria Petrovich; Costume Design, Shelly Williams; Lighting Design, Christina Martin; Sound Design, Matt Lescault-Wood; Properties Design, Angelica Ynfante; Wigs and Makeup Missy Bradstreet; Stage Management, Nora Kessler.



Jami Brandli (Playwright) plays include *Technicolor Life*, *S.O.E.*, *M-Theory*, *¡SOLDADERA!*, *Sisters Three*, *Through the Eye of a Needle*, *Medusa's Song* and *BLISS (or Emily Post is Dead!)* which was named in The Kilroys Top 46 List in 2014. Her work has been produced/developed at New Dramatists, WordBRIDGE, The Lark, New York Theatre Workshop, Great Plains Theatre Conference, Launch Pad, The Antaeus Company, Chalk REP, The Road, among other venues. Winner of John Gassner Memorial Playwriting Award, Holland New Voices Award and Aurora Theatre Company's GAP Prize. She's been a finalist for the 2016 PEN Literary Award for Drama, Playwrights' Center Core Writer Fellowship, Princess Grace Award, O'Neill National Playwrights Conference and the Disney ABC TV Fellowship and was also nominated for the Susan Smith Blackburn Award. Her short works are published with TCG and Smith & Kraus. A proud member of the Playwrights Union, the Antaeus Playwrights Lab, and The Dramatist Guild, Jami teaches dramatic writing at Lesley University's low-residency MFA program. She is represented by the Robert A Freedman Agency and Fourth Wall Management and is currently developing a TV project with Quaker Moving Pictures. jamibrandli.com



Delicia Turner Sonnenberg (Director) is a founder and former Artistic Director of MOXIE Theatre, where she directed many acclaimed productions. Recently for the Old Globe she directed Dominique Morisseau's *Skeleton Crew*, followed by *Romeo and Juliet* with The Old Globe and University of San Diego Shiley Graduate Theatre Program. She has also directed plays for San Diego Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego State University, Cygnet Theatre Company, Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company, New Village Arts, Diversionary Theatre, ion theatre company, and Playwrights Project. Her honors include Theatre Communications Group's New Generations Program grant, the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Awards, Women's International Center Living Legacy Award, Van Lier Fund fellowship (Second Stage Theatre), and the New York Drama League's Directors Project. She is married to designer Jerry Sonnenberg and is the proud mama to August and Zoë.

MOXIE Theatre

THE CAST



Morgan Carberry (Clementine) MOXIE debut. *Cabaret*, *Sunday in the Park with George* (ion); *Billy Elliot* (San Diego Musical Theatre); *Hand to God*, *Everybody's Talkin'* (San Diego Rep); *James and the Giant Peach* (Barn Stage Company); *On the Twentieth Century* (Cygnet); *Oklahoma!*, *Big River*, *Return to the Forbidden Planet* (New Village Arts); *Tribute* (Scripps Ranch Theatre); *Festival of Christmas (Northern Lights)* (Lamb's Players); *The Musical of Musicals* (Oceanside Theatre Company). Morgan trained and lived in the U.K. for 10 years, and also works as a professional voice coach and music director.



Steve Froehlich (Apollo / Dr. Tom Smith / Uncle) Local Theatre: *Big Night of Little Plays*, *Our Lady of Kibeho* and *Orange Julius* (MOXIE Theatre, world premiere); *Marjorie Prime* (North Coast Repertory Theatre); *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Disappearing Act* (InnerMission Productions, world premiere) at Diver-sionary Theatre; *Disappearing Act* at SD International Fringe Festival; *The Nut-cracker* (New Village Arts Theatre, adaptation); *Reasons to Be Pretty*, and *Bug* (ion Theatre). Trains with Larry Moss in LA and is in “Voices of Midway” at USS Midway Museum.



Taylor Linekin (Antonia) MOXIE debut. Taylor is a senior at the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts, and recently portrayed Judas in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* as well as Jennie Mae in *The Diviners*, and has dedicated her time as an acting major throughout her high school career.

MOXIE Theatre



Lydia Lea Real (Maddie) Moxie debut. Lydia has been teaching theater, creative writing and creativity workshops for the past 15 years and is currently a teaching artist with La Jolla Playhouse, Arts For Learning and San Diego Writer's Ink. Recent local credits include *A Piece Of My Heart* (American History Theater; Martha), *American Hero* (OB Playhouse; Jamie), *Laundry & Bourbon* (Horton Grand Theater; Hattie), *No Exit* (CAT; Inez), *Godspell* (OB Playhouse; Sonia) and *Big Kitchen- A Counter Culture Musical* (San Diego Fringe Festival 2015 & 2017; Rusty).



Alexandra Slade (Cassandra) MOXIE debut. Recent credits include *The Legend of Georgia McBride* (Cynet Theatre), *Good People* (Scripps Ranch Theatre), *Ragtime* (SDMT) Oklahoma (New Village Arts), *Spring Awakening* (The Barnstage Company), and *Bare: A Pop Opera* (Diversions Theatre).



FACTS ABOUT *BLISS (OR EMILY POST IS DEAD!)*

WHAT: *Bliss (or Emily Post is Dead!)* by Jami Brandli

WHERE: MOXIE Theatre, 6663 El Cajon Blvd Suite N, San Diego, CA 92115

SCHEDULE: Run Dates: January 28 - February 25. Opening Night: February 3.

Thursdays at 7pm; Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm; Sundays at 2pm

TICKET PRICES

DISCOUNTS: Seniors, Students, Military and AASD receive \$5 off general admission

Opening Night 2/3

\$43.00

General Admission 2/4-2/25

\$33.00

Previews 1/28, 2/1, 2/2

\$23.00

Groups of 10 or more

\$20.00

Groups of 15 or more

\$15.00

BOX OFFICE: 858-598-7620 or www.moxietheatre.com

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES:

Friday, Feb. 2, 2018 @ 7pm – Bechdel Brigade Night: *Bliss (or Emily Post is Dead!)*

Join The Bechdel Brigade for an exclusive pre-show reception with the Director to talk about the art, the artists, and how the production scores on the Bechdel Test.

Sunday, Feb. 11, 2017 @ 2pm – Second Sunday Q & A: *Bliss (or Emily Post is Dead!)*

Join the actors from *Bliss (or Emily Post is Dead!)* for a post-show discussion to learn more about the play and enrich your theatre going experience.

