

OPENING NIGHT | FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2022 (858) 598 7620 | MOXIETHEATRE.COM

## A WORD FROM THE MOXIE TEAM

#### YOU ARE CALLED TO WONDER.

We've been thinking a lot about the purpose of theatre. After some of the most challenging years our industry has ever faced, we've wondered if now isn't the time to revisit our purpose. What is theatre for? Entertainment? Education? Community? We came back to the power of wonder.

This season, as always, MOXIE invites you to **join us, and each other, in the space that was designed for collective wonder.** The theatre. This season we'll conjure ancient gods, peek into our secret desires, and wonder at our own humanity.

Thank you for joining us,

The MOXIE Team

## KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

It's not surprising that the fictional funders of the drug trial in *The Pleasure Trials* have chosen to fund research that is **limited in terms of sexual and gender identities.** Consider who that benefits. Research and development for health issues that affect women are still underfunded. And research that includes a wider spectrum of sexual and gender identity is even more so. These fictional funder's choices certainly affect their outcomes.

**But we shouldn't limit ourselves!** Knowledge is power. Learn more about sexual orientation and gender identity from The Human Rights Campaign's awesome glossary.

www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms

# PLEASURE TRIALS

by Sarah Saltwick

Directed by Marti Gobel

#### CAST

Dr. Rachel Milan Callie Young Anne—Zora Sarah Alida LeClair Sutheshna (Suthe) Mani Andréa Agosto

## **CREATIVE AND TECHNICAL TEAM**

Stage Manager
Accompanist & Sound Designer
Scenic & Projection Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Props Designer
Technical Director
Assistant Stage Manager
Scenic Artist
Production Manager

Aria Proctor Sharon Taylor Yi-Chien Lee Regan A. McKay Sierra Shreves Rai Feltmann Cynthia Bloodgood Jamie Boyd Julie Lorenz Megan Ames

**TIME & PLACE** Present, in Dr. Milan's office and research laboratory, as well as a wedding dress shop and Callie's apartment.

THE PLEASURE TRIALS is produced by special arrangement with Kate Bussert, BRET ADAMS, LTD, 448 W 44th Street, New York NY 10036. <a href="mailto:bretadamsltd.net">bretadamsltd.net</a> Developed with support of the Playwrights Center and the Jerome Foundation, and Luna Stage in Orange, NJ and Amphibian Stage Productions in Fort Worth, TX. World Premiere in February 2022 at Amphibian Stage Productions in Fort Worth, Texas, directed by Kara-Lynn Vaeni.



MOXIE Theatre's mission is to create more diverse and honest images of women+ for our culture. We do that by focusing on producing work written by women+ and providing opportunities to women+ in the theatre, an industry where women+ are still underrepresented in leadership and technical roles. Now in our 18th season, we welcome you to learn more about our mission, values and work as an anti-racist organization at moxietheatre.com.

**This Land Doesn't Belong to MOXIE.** Our theatre exists on the original unceded territory of the Kumeyaay people, referred to as Diegueños by the Spanish colonizers, a territory later occupied by Mexico.

We acknowledge the Kumeyaay Nation spans the two countries that now form our border cities and acknowledge the Kumeyaay as the past, present and future caretakers of this land.

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Sara Varela
Callie Prendiville

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#### special thanks & acknowledgements

Many thanks to the following volunteers, community members, businesses and organizations who supported this production of The Pleasure Trials.

Joel Aguilar-Ames, Dustin Long, Chris Renda, David Weiner, The La Jolla Playhouse. Our House Managers: Mike Carroll, Janelle Conde, Enid Farrell, Raissa Juan, Jan Merutka, Paige Picard, Sheila Robinson.

#### director's note

My work on this production has led me and my team on a long walk of research and personal reflection concerning the notion of happiness vs pleasure. Some thoughts...

As a mature woman with a marriage of thirty years under my belt I can share that my journey through life often alters what my personal definition of happiness and pleasure are. When achieved, happiness is a long-lived, ethereal and sustainable phenomenon. In contrast, pleasure is short lived, visceral and often fleeting. The disconnect between sustainability and pleasure is profound. For one can be happy without the pursuit of pleasure. Particularly, sexual pleasure. Personally, there have been ebbs and flows in my pursuit of sexual pleasure that are anchored in what was happening in my life. Curiosity, fatigue, child birth, child rearing, and comfort of self have all played a role in my approach to sexual pleasure and I daresay the pursuit of sexual pleasure. I am blessed with a partner who rides my waves of desire with kindness, care and willingness. In short, if I want it I can have it...

But what if you don't crave such activities? What if the pursuit of sexual satisfaction engenders feeling of shame, fear or insecurities? What if the pursuit of sexual pleasure leads to unhappiness? The Pleasure Trials begs the question: Is female sexual desire a necessary component of true happiness? The fact that every woman is entirely unique leads me to conclude that every woman's answer to this question must also be unique. It then becomes impossible to respond with a singular answer. To attempt to do so is folly and yet the medical community seeks to do just that. Give one answer to a complex question that often ignores the individual. This play highlights the presence of the individual with humor and respect. I believe that with the razing of this production we have all taken a moment to reflect on our journey as we walk towards a deeper understanding of sexual health.

I invite you to take this walk of discovery with us "to spark conversation, verbal elation, stimulation, share our situations, temptations, elevation... C'mon!" (Jill Scott)

Marti Gobel, Director

#### the playwright



#### SARAH SALTWICK

she/her is a playwright based in Austin, TX, a graduate of the Michener Center for Writers at UT Austin and was a Jerome Fellow at the Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis. Recent productions/workshops include Tender Rough Rough Tender at Northpark University in Chicago, Limits are For Suckers by Scriptworks at Hyde Park Theater in Austin, TX, and The Girl Who Became Legend at Zach Scott Theater in Austin

tin, TX. Egress was previously developed as part of the Hyde Park Theater New Play Development Workshop. In 2015, Tender Rough Rough Tender was awarded the David Mark Cohen award for best new play by the Austin Critic's Table. Sarah's plays have recently been produced or developed by the Lark, the Vortex, Scriptworks, groundswell theatre company, Hyde Park Theater, Kitchen Dog Theater, Swan Dive, the Navigators, Red Theatre Collective, Phoenix Theatre, the Icicle Creek Theater Festival, WildClaw Horror Theater, University of Texas at Austin, Weber State University, Barnyard Theater; as well as in cars, backyards, dressing rooms, lobbies, and a swimming pool. She is also a Co-Director of Holden & Arts Associates, a theatrical booking agency. She shares her home with her husband, musician and visual artist Toto Miranda, their daughter Beatrix, and their cat Lulu.

#### the director



#### MARTI GOBEL

**she/her** is a national actor, director and teaching artist with professional credits across the country. Upon graduating from UW-Whitewater in 2008 with a degree in Performance Theatre and Philosophy, Ms. Gobel began a rich career not only on stage but in television and film. Ms. Gobel's firm belief in Arts Education led her to study at The J. F. Kennedy Center where she completed her training in Effective Residency and Lesson Planning. Thrilled to be making her MOXIE Theatre debut, Ms. Gobel will continue her artistic travels with exciting projects in

Wisconsin, Knoxville and Chicago. A San Diego native and local artist, Ms. Gobel is a proud member of both AEA and SAG-AFTRA.

## SARAH ALIDA LECLAIR (DR. RACHEL MILAN)

**she/her** is grateful to return to the MOXIE stage after her debut with the company earlier this year in *Mother of the Maid* alongside Jennifer Thorn. Sarah has performed with Ion Theatre (Cathy, *The Last Five Years*, and Kerry in *Geeks! The Musical*), San Diego Opera Words and Music Program (*Romeo and Juliet, Zombie Cinderella, To Kill a Mockingbird*) and San Diego



Repertory Theatre (understudy, Alison/Helen, Fun Home). Sarah has also enjoyed performing at Coronado Playhouse (Morticia, The Addams Family, Beatrice, Much Ado About Nothing, and Sally Bowles, Cabaret). This fall she will be premiering her own play, The Importance of Ugg Boots with the La Jolla Theatre Ensemble, directed by Carla Navarro. Sarah holds a Masters in Music in vocal performance from San Diego State and is a voice and music teacher at Monte Vista High School in east county San Diego.

## SUTHESHNA "SUTHE" MANI (CALLIE YOUNG)

**she/her** is so excited for her first production with MOXIE Theatre as Callie in *The Pleasure Trials*! She was last in *The Taming* as Bianca/Intern at Scripps Ranch Theatre, also directed by Marti Gobel. Some of her favorite credits include *Catch Me if You Can* (Agent Cod) at San Diego Musical Theatre, "Block by Block" (Ringmaster) an original



outdoor performance she helped write the script and music for by Maraya Performing Arts, Rocky Horror (Janet), OB Playhouse, Hall Pass (Olivia/Collette), Blindspot Collective as part of La Jolla Playhouse's WOW festival, and Chasing Fear: a staged reading (Voska), Cygnet Theatre. In her spare time, she runs her own freelance copywriting business called Center Stage Social, travels the world, sweats it out at her favorite gym, Sweat Circuit, and writes on her blog, suthecreates.com!

## COVID-19 SAFETY



MOXIE is so excited share our physical space with you! Please note that **masks are required** throughout the performance and at any time while you are indoors. We also require **proof of vaccination or a negative rapid antigen or PCR test** for all attendees, staff, and performers.



## ANDRÉA AGOSTO (ANNE-ZORA)

they/she is an award winning filmmaker (Kansas City Film Fest) and actor (International Model & Talent Association). Agosto is also currently the Artistic Fellow at Diversionary Theater. Recently, they've decided to dive into the world of content creating, and are having a blast! Their credits include: Mud Row (Cygnet Theater), A Kind of Weather, Bull in a China Shop, Cardboard Piano, Homos, or Everyone in America (Diversionary),

Dance Nation (MOXIE), The Magic in This Soul (Blindspot Collective), Avenue Q (Ocean Beach Playhouse), You Can't Take it With You (Lamb's Players), Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike (FUSION), and Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters (The Coterie). For more information, visit www.andreaagosto.com.

## SHARON TAYLOR (ACCOMPANIST)

**she/her** is a San Diego-based cellist, improviser, and educator. While her heart is with both orchestral and solo classical music, Taylor's abilities have made her in-demand for a breadth of musical contexts including rock, jazz, hip-hop and musical theater. She has performed for many of San Diego's musical theater companies: Cygnet Theatre, Lambs Players Theatre, and San Diego Musical Theatre to name a few. She performs with a number of local orchestras and has played principal cellist for both the Palomar Symphony Orchestra and Villa Musica Summer Orchestra. As a recording artist, she has been featured on several albums, including the 2019 San Diego Music Awards "Best hiphop Album" Thirty First Street Sessions by Parker Meridian. Beyond San



Diego, Taylor's talents have taken her abroad to perform in Bolivia, Mexico, and China. Her dedication to the cello began at the age of 10 in her hometown of Sacramento, before moving to San Diego to earn her Bachelor of Music degree in Cello Performance from San Diego State University under the tutelage of Thomas Stauffer, and then further her skills in classical music with principal cellist Yao Zhao of the San Diego Symphony. Now, Taylor pays her education forward to the many students in her teaching studio.

Bring a group to MOXIE and **save 20%!**Groups of 10 or more, contact our box office for details.
(858) 598-7620 | boxoffice@moxietheatre.com

## ARIA PROCTOR (STAGE MANAGER)

**she/her** attended the University of Pennsylvania, class of 2019, and graduated with a BA in Theatre Arts. After which she worked as a stage manager and theater technician in Philadelphia before relocating to San Diego in 2021. She then joined Playwrights Project and currently works as their Production and Office Manager. She is excited to join the MOXIE production team for *The Pleasure Trials*!

## YI-CHIEN LEE (SCENIC & PROJECTION DESIGNER)

**she/her** is thrilled to be back at MOXIE Theatre. Set design credits include: Life Sucks, Water by the Spoonful, The Great Leap (Cygnet Theatre), Eighty-Sixed, Girlfriend, A Kind of Weather (Diversionary Theatre), King of the Yees (Sierra Madre Playhouse), Mother of the Maid (MOXIE Theatre), Turn Around, About Chia-Yi (Our Theatre, The 13th Grassstraw Festival), The Winter's Tale – globe for all (Old Globe). Her work for "Moon drunk" was selected for the Emerging Artist/Imagination Exhibit in the 2019 Prague Quadrennial, and "Un-Tongue" was exhibited at The 28th Cairo International Festival for Experimental Theatre. You can find her portfolio at yichienlee.com.

## REGAN A. McKAY (COSTUME DESIGNER)

**she/her** is excited to make her MOXIE debut. Past design credits include: Mud Row at Cygnet Theatre; Steel Pier, Cloud 9, and Dog Sees God at San Diego State University; the Summer Conservatory at Shakespeare and Company in Lenox, MA; and Sweeney Todd at Northern Michigan University. Regan graduated with an MFA from San Diego State University. She is passionate about sustainable theatrical design and environmentally mindful practices are at the core of her work. For more: <a href="https://www.reganamckay.com">www.reganamckay.com</a>

## SIERRA SHREVES (LIGHTING DESIGNER)

**they/them** is making their California professional design debut in this production of *The Pleasure Trials*. Sierra is in their second year at SDSU in pursuit of an MFA in Design and Technology. They moved here almost exactly a year ago after graduating with a BFA in Theatre Design and Technology with an emphasis in Lighting Design from Northern Kentucky University. They are originally from West Virginia, but come to the west coast by way of Florida, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky. Sierra comes to this production after lighting designing SDSU's production of *The Wolves* last Spring. Sierra is abundantly excited to be working with MOXIE and hopes you enjoy *The Pleasure Trials*.

## RAI FELTMANN (PROPS DESIGNER)

**she/they** graduated from the Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University. She has worked as a Props Artisan, Assistant Props Master, and Props Master at various theaters including Stages St. Louis, Cleveland Play House, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, and Cortland Repertory Theater. She is currently the Lead Properties Artisan at La Jolla Playhouse. She would like to thank Megan for this wonderful opportunity and her family for their continued support.

## JAMIE BOYD (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER)

**she/her** is a budding ASM/SM in the San Diego area. Her recent credits include Stage Manager for *The World Goes Round* at the Coronado Playhouse, Stage Manager Intern for *The Taming of the Shrew* at The Old Globe, as well as Production Coordinator for Theatre Design Studio at The Old Globe.



MOXIE is proud to **fulfill our mission** of creating more diverse and honest images of women+ on the stage, as well as **behind the scenes**. Meet the amazing team behind this production of *The Pleasure Trials*!

Left to right, in the back: Rai Feltmann, Regan McKay, Sierra Shreves, Aria Proctor, and Yi-Chien Lee; in the front: Sharon Taylor and Jamie Boyd.

## CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG DESIGNING WOMEN+!

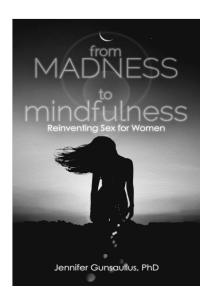
**The Hurston Fellowship** is made possible through the generous support of Dea & Osborn Hurston.

Thanks to their leadership and support,

MOXIE is able to partner with SDSU every season
to select one outstanding woman+ studying theatre design
and give her a paid, professional design position.
This gives young women+ just starting their career
a leg up in the world of professional theatre design,
still severely lacking in equal opportunities.

If you are interested in sponsoring this kind of opportunities for women+ in theatre, contact <u>valentinaemoxietheatre.com</u>.

#### **EXPERT OPINION**



## From Madness to Mindfulness: Reinventing Sex for Women

by local author, sociologist, and intimacy speaker,

Dr. Jenn Gunsaullus

A guidebook to overcoming the BS of societal teachings around sex, body image, and self-worth.

JOIN US for a fascinating post-show conversation with Dr. Jenn on Thursday, August 25.

#### DONOR RECOGNITION

We are truly grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their generous support of MOXIE.

This list includes donations over \$100 received between 8/01/2021-8/01/2022

#### POWER PLAYERS (\$10,000+)

Denise & Lon Bevers California Arts Council City of San Diego The Conrad Prebys Foundation Beth Goodman The Parker Foundation

#### **VISIONARIES** (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Anonymous (1) Susan & Douglas McLeod Wendy Nash

#### ANGELS (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Anonymous (1) In honor of the Asian Women's Shelter, SF The Baca Family Sandra Baule Edith Benkov Karen & Jim Brailean Del Mar Blue Print Diana Denoyer In honor of Silvia & Paul Esrig Viviene Esrig Mayra Garcia & Prasanth Rao-Kathi Judith Hansen Mike & Ron Hebdon Dea & Osborn Hurston IQ Graphics Jean & Gordon Kelly Aline N King The Long Family Foundation &

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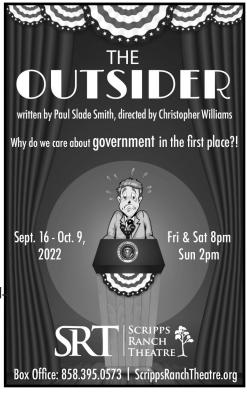
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Want to get involved? Contact volunteer@moxietheatre.com

MOXIE Theatre is a registered 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization Federal Tax ID # 20-1080613





#### **NEXT UP IN MOXIE'S SEASON 18**



Nov 6-Dec 4, 2022

### THE CHILDREN

by Lucy Kirkwood Directed by Kim Strassburger

Two retired nuclear scientists reside in an isolated cottage by the sea. The world around them may bear the scars of a disaster, but

they're going to live forever on yogurt and yoga. Then an old friend arrives with a frightening request, and this riveting play turns on a dime.



Feb 5-Mar 5, 2023

## **BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA**

by Anna Ouyang Moench Directed by Lisa Berger

From one of the writers of Apple TV's hit series Severance, comes a father-daughter story that spans decades in one suburban backyard. John

and his daughter Caitlyn are birders. As they scan the skies, looking for elusive birds, the climate and their worlds will change as they struggle to understand the parts of one another that defy understanding.



May 7-June 4, 2023

## CHRONICLES OF KALKI

by Aditi Brennan Kapil Directed by Desireé Clarke

This comic-book-infused girl-gang thriller chronicles the adventures and mysterious disappearance of Kalki, a young woman who may

or may not be the final avatar of Vishnu. Has Kalki come to rid the world of demons and evil or just to make high school a hell of a lot more interesting?

## THANK YOU TO MOXIE'S SUPPORTERS

## **SEASON SPONSORS**

THE CONRAD PREBYS FOUNDATION





Beth A. Goodman | Wendy Nash | Edith Benkov

## **ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS**

MOXIE is proud to give special recognition to the donors who **give monthly** to help sustain the art you see on our stage.

## RECURRING CHARACTERS (\$100+/MO)

Anonymous (1) Edith Benkov Jean & Gordon Kelly Felicia Shaw Dr. Lynne Thrope

## ENSEMBLE CAST (\$75+/M0)

Rita Chenoweth Patrick and Sarah Klacka Patricia R. Low & Mark W. Majette

#### CAMEO ROLE (\$50+/MO)

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Aline N. King
Paige Picard
Shannon Sweeney

#### **RUN CREW**

Elle Arnot Lois Bloom Elizabeth Corrow Barbara Gilman Dana Ginn Jan Merutka

#### Wanna join the community of MOXIE donors?

Explore the many ways you can contribute, big or small, and **find the best fit for you**: give monthly or give once, sponsor the show that touches you most, or sponsor the whole Season... Any way you give, we **THANK YOU!** 

Visit <u>moxietheatre.com/donate</u> to learn more or email valentina@moxietheatre.com

## A SPECIAL OFFER JUST FOR YOU

#### Join us for the rest of Season 18!

Did you enjoy today's show? **THREE MORE remarkable plays** are in store in MOXIE's Season 18, and we have a **special offer for you**: Today's ticket gives you access to our 3-show subscription packages at a **special discount** of 15% off single tickets.

#### **Preview Package**

Adult \$79 - Senior/Student/Military \$61 Preview dates only, no exchanges

#### **Opening Night Package**

Adult \$121 - Senior/Student/Military \$110 Unlimited exchanges

#### **General Evening Package**

Adult \$102- Senior/Student/Military \$97 Excludes Sunday matinees and Opening Nights

#### **Sunday Matinee Package**

Adult \$115 - Senior/Student/Military \$102 Excludes Opening Nights

All packages include 1 ticket to each of the 3 remaining shows in Season 18, PLUS **full subscribers perks**: reserved seating, free exchanges, invitations to private rehearsals and special behind-the-scenes events.

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