Playthings

By Nathania Bernabe and Jackie T. Hanlin
An Affair of Honor Production
presented by Presentation House Theatre
in association with the PHT Creative Hub Co-op

April 8 – 17, 2021
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Affair of Honor livestreams ancient action adventure in this thrilling, hilarious, & daring tale of mortals & Gods.

April 8–17, 2021

CAST

Elizabeth Young – Athena
Cole Howard – Ares (April 8–10)
Shona Struthers – Ares (April 15–17)
Jackie T. Hanlin – Atalanta
Nathania Bernabe – Ortrere

CREATIVE TEAM

Nathania Bernabe Producer, Director, Fight/Movement Choreographer, Playwright
Jackie T. Hanlin Producer, Fight Choreographer, Playwright
Matt Rhodes Assistant/Mentee Producer
Heidi Damayo Dramaturg
Phay Moores Intimacy Director
Kirsten Gundlack & Daniel Levinson Script Editing
Shila Amin Stage Manager
Shona Struthers Sound Design & Music Composition
Jonathan Kim Lighting Designer
Alexander Balinski Costume Designer
Kimira Reddy Set Designer
Great Northern Way Scene Shop Set Construction
Kimira Reddy & Vanka Salim Scenic Painting
Chad Cuthbertson Animation
Daniel Levinson Mortals Table Work
Russel Eresmas Livestream Video Direction
Vanka Salim Livestream Video Prep
Kaeden Atkinson-Hill Head Technician, Lighting Operator
Neal Miskin Sound Technician
Yunjae Cho & Vanka Salim Video Technicians

Additional Fight Resources

Sylvie La Riviere Fight Choreography Sword and Board, Swashbuckle
Daniel Levinson & Todd Campbell Fight Consultation

Sound design notes and credits:
Special thanks to violinist Louise Cooke and guitarist Jed Weiss.

The sound design includes samples from freesound.org users: Yap_Audio_Production, RikkerMix, GregorQuendel, Tgruber, Glaneur de sons, Nakhas, InspectorJ, Brevices, jackthemurray, kyles, Homejrande, Frankyboomer, as well as sound from Zapsplat.com, and The Northern Path, Mjolnir, and Fallout by Alexander Nakarada (www.serpentsoundstudios.com). Licensed under Creative Commons BY Attribution 4.0 License: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/
This piece has come from the artistry of all the creators we have worked with. Since its inception on paper in a tiny kitchen to its first rehearsals fleshing out seven pages into a story with our actors and dramaturg in the Studio at Binnings. Our residency at Presentation House Theatre has really helped elevate our work by achieving a few goals; fighting on and moving with architecture and giving us the space and time to develop our new work.

This work requires a lot of physical and mental stamina. We had to build a new movement vocabulary on structures and explore non contact storytelling. I want to thank my team for their work ethic and their drive. This work cannot happen without the willingness to try new things while taking artistic risks and learning how to work through failure. Especially for a new work, we are still adjusting elements even before shows.

The restrictions placed upon our production has granted us a few blessings in disguise. This is not the production we envisioned initially but we have found new ways of working within our current situation.

What you see in this production is just a baseline of what we created for this story and we are excited to share our discoveries so far.

When this rendition closes, we are even more excited to have the opportunity to come back and tackle this story again. When we are granted more freedom to do the work, when we are able to physically touch those that are not within our same household, we will return. There is so much more we wanted to do and we cannot wait to tackle it all again and with a bigger vision for the technical design.

Not to mention having audiences physically experiencing the show with us. The sound design was specifically made to shake your seat and I am deeply saddened we can't share that with you through your screens.

My eternal gratitude to Kim Selody who has mentored Jackie and I throughout this process. When things get hard, especially during crunch time, we are fueled by his encouragement to keep pushing the artistic boundaries of Affair of Honor’s work and reminding us that the impossible is always possible.

– Nathania Bernabe

COVID PRECAUTIONS

For the protection of the cast, creative team and everyone involved in Playthings, Affair of Honor and PHT have adhered to and surpassed required COVID safety precautions for livestream performances as directed by ACTSAFE, the BC Motion Picture Industry COVID-19 Pandemic Production Guide, and Worksafe BC. This production is fully compliant with current provincial PHOs.
Playthings is our first original piece as a company. While it had very humble beginnings (7 wine fueled pages back in 2017) we are so proud of how it has grown. We cannot thank our team enough, for all of the work and dedication they have shown, from the incredibly funny one liners and ad libs, to the depth of emotional connection to these characters we have been able to craft. We need to thank Daniel Levinson, who donated far too much time pouring over the script with us helping us flesh out the stories behind the fights. Not enough can be said about Kirsten Gundlack, who made our script legible to any and all who will want to tackle this beast in the future.

We owe massive development props to our incredible dramaturg Heidi Demayo. Her guidance allowed us to grow our characters to each have a unique and engaging story arc. While we are excited to see where else Playthings goes, Heidi has been indispensable in it’s journey from infancy.

Of course, we would not be where we are without Presentation House Theatre, who let a rag tag team of sword fighters into their space to bash and clang around as we laugh at our bad jokes and then ask to put it onstage. Our time within these walls has been paramount to this production, and has given us great hope for its future.

We hope this production brings you as much joy and excitement as it does us.

Enjoy the show.

- Nathania Bernabe & Jackie T Hanlin

SHILA AMIN  Stage Manager

Shila is a graduate of the Technical Theatre Program at Capilano University. Select credits: Stage Manager: *Frankenstein: Lost in Darkness* (Pacific Theatre), *Amelie* (West Moon Theatre), *Playthings* and *Soul Samurai* (Affair of Honor), *Bondage* (West Moon Theatre), *NeOn* (Ode Movements Society), *Featuring Loretta* (Punchback Projects), *Dry Land* (Rumble Theatre), *Cabaret*, and *Rocky Horror Show* (Exit 22). She’d like to thank the cast and crew for making this an amazing experience!

ALEXANDER BALINSKI  Costume Designer

Alexander is an actor, costume designer, and scenic artist hailing from Vancouver Island, now migrated to Vancouver, BC. He is a graduate of the Theatre program at Vancouver Island University and has travelled far and wide to receive his Intermediate level certification with The Academy of Fight Directors Canada.

Past theatre credits include: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Our Country's Good*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Into the Woods* and *Soul Samurai*. Alexander is absolutely thrilled to be back with his fight family again and to be working with Affair of Honor on this production. When he is not working on shows or pretending to be a wizard, he can be found behind you, or in dark corners of your house.

NATHANIA BERNABE  Producer, Director, Fight/Movement Choreographer, Playwright, Actor - Ortrere

Nathania Bernabe has a profound love for physical theatre, honing her performance skills with the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (London), SITI Company (New York), Zen Zen Zo (Melbourne) and Second City (Chicago). She is grateful for these and more incredible international opportunities to intensively train in different mediums.

Her need to continually expand her movement vocabulary drew her to the work and training of Diavolo Dance Company (Los Angeles) where she took part in their 2019 Winter Elements Workshop. Nathania holds a BA in Drama and Education from Alberta's Concordia University.

She is Board President with The Academy of Fight Directors Canada (AFDC). Under the mentorship of Fight Master Daniel Levinson at Rapier Wit in Toronto Nathania continues her work towards becoming an AFDC instructor.

Nathania is the Artistic Director of *Affair of Honor*, a company she created with her amazing partner Jackie T. Hanlin.
HEIDI DAMAYO  Dramaturg

Heidi is a proud prairie girl from Treaty 7 territory. Her playwrighting credits include *Morning Glory* and *LIVE* (Arts Club Leap Program), and *Generations* (Nightswimming Theatre). She is a Nightswimming 5x25 commissioned playwright and recently served as an assistant dramaturg with Lunchbox Theatre in Calgary. Select acting credits include: *Mustard* (The Arts Club/Belfry Theatre), *New Canadian Kid* (Green Thumb Theatre), and *She Kills Monsters* (UBC Theatre). Heidi is a graduate of UBC Theatre, a Fight Directors’ Canada Intermediate Actor-Combatant (with conditions), a Wesbrook scholar, and recipient of the Stephen Woodhouse Memorial Prize.

JACKIE T HANLIN - Producer, Fight Choreographer, Playwright, Actor
- Atalanta

Hailing from Halifax, Nova Scotia, actor Jackie T Hanlin has worked and trained with Haligonian theatre groups including Dapopo Theatre, touring an original piece with them to Berlin, Germany in 2010. Jackie received her BA with honours in Drama from Bishops University, studying with prolific Nova Scotian actor/director Cory Bowles and Mump and Smoot’s Michael Kennard. After graduating, she began her stage combat studies and work in Vancouver with Nathania Bernabe, her fight/producing partner. Together they founded their theatre company *Affair of Honor*. Jackie trains with combat specialists from across the globe, with ongoing mentorship from Daniel Levinson at Rapier Wit Studio in Toronto. She holds her Advanced Actor Combatant Certification with Fight Directors Canada. Since 2015 Jackie has had the pleasure to work as an actor/choreographer within *Affair of Honor* producing *Soul Samurai* (Vancouver Fringe Festival 2017; 2018 remount), *Heroine* (Edmonton Fringe Festival 2018), *House of Arms: an improvised fight episodic* (2018), and *Playthings* (Pacific Theatre; Edmonton Fringe Festival 2019).

COLE HOWARD  Actor - Ares (April 8  10)

Since he was a little kid, entertaining people was all Cole really wanted do. After some professional theatre work in Edmonton, Cole moved to the west coast in 2008 to pursue voice-over work. He (eventually) managed to find himself playing roles on dozens of shows, notably including *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic*, Netflix’s *The Dragon Prince*, *Megaman: Fully Charged*, as well as playing Spider-Man for Marvel’s *Superhero Adventures* series. In 2018 Cole was cast in his first *Affair of Honor* show, Qui Nguyen’s *Soul Samurai*. Cole was further privileged to go on to play Ares in the first iteration of *Playthings* in 2019.

He simply could not have done any of this without his people and their willingness to oblige when he asked them to watch him play.
**JONATHAN KIM**  Lighting Designer

Jonathan Kim, better known as Jono, is a Jessie nominated lighting designer based in Vancouver, BC. He is a graduate of SFU’s Theatre Production and Design program. Jonathan is also a member of ADC (Associated Designers Canada) and Chimik, an interdisciplinary collective. His most recent works include: *House and Home* (Firehall Arts Centre); *Gramma* (Pacific Theatre); *High Water* (Macromatter); *Flying White* (Turning Point Ensemble & Wen Wei Dance); *Kim’s Convenience* (Arts Club); *The Relay* (The Cultch Digital Storytelling Team); and *The Array: First Contact* (Upintheair Theatre). He was nominated for two Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards in Outstanding Lighting Design for his work on *The Nether* (Redcurrant Collective) and *The City & The City* (Upintheair Theatre and The Only Animal).

**PHAY MOORES**  Intimacy Director

Phay currently lives on the stolen traditional territory of the kʷikʷəƛ̓əm (Kwikwetlem) Nation and often works on the stolen traditional territories of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations. Phay is an intimacy director/coordinator, director, internationally trained actor combatant, and professional actor based in what is colonially known as Vancouver. Through her mixed ancestry, Phay explores intimacy topics through a decolonised and Indigenous perspective.

She has worked as an artistic associate and producer for Full Circle: First Nations Performance and as an intimacy director/coordinator on various projects around Vancouver. She is currently on the start-up committee for the National Society of Intimacy Professionals and is an intimacy profession with Principal Intimacy Professionals (principalintimacy.com). Credits include Clever Bird Entertainment’s *Beirut* and UBC’s *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again*.

**KIMIRA REDDY**  Set Designer

Kimira is a Set Designer based in BC. She uses virtual reality as a concept tool for set design and creates an immersive VR walk-through of the final product. Originally from South Africa, she holds an MFA in Design from UBC and a Bachelor’s in Performing Arts Technology.

Credits: Set design for *Zoning Out* (Blackout Theater), *No Child* (The Arts Club); *The Turn of the Screw* (Aenigma Theatre); *Romance, Relationships, Rights* (UBC Centre for Inclusion & Citizenship partnering with Community Living Society); *Burqa Boutique*, *The Way You Carry On*, *Fireflies* (Killjoy Theatre); *The Crucible* (UBC Theatre). Assistant Set Design for *Birds and The Bees* (The Arts Club); *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *All’s Well That Ends Well*, *Coriolanus* (Bard on the Beach).

[www.kimirareddy.com](http://www.kimirareddy.com)
**MATTHEW RHODES**  Assistant / Mentee Producer

Matthew Rhodes is an emerging theatre artist with a deep passion for Shakespeare. He is a UBC BFA Acting graduate with a Masters of Management from the Sauder School of Business, as well as three summers in the Riotous Youth Internship with Bard on the Beach. Matt is the Associate Producer for *The Show Must Go Online*, an international live classical theatre movement. He recently directed five short play readings with Brave New Play Rites. Recent performance credits include *The Show Must Go Online*, Plague Players, and UBC. He will be performing with Cookies and Cream Collective in *Consensual* in the fall.

**VANKA CHAITRA SALIM**  Livestream Video Prep, Scenic Painter

Vanka Chaitra Salim (she/her) is an Indonesian-Canadian scenic painter and theatre designer graduated from UBC BFA Theatre Design & Production program. She is usually over at Granville Island making acrylic paints in Kroma or designing projection, set and/or lighting around town. She feels very honoured to be given the opportunity to work with such a great team and do more scenic painting after a long hiatus! Past scenic paint credits include: *The Realistic Joneses* (The Mint Collective), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Carousel Theatre for Young People & Touchstone Theatre), Bard on The Beach (Season 2016 and 2017), UBC Theatre Season 2015-2016, *Lone Star* and *Savage in Limbo* (UBC Theatre), *The Consul* (UBC Opera), *Naked Cinema* (UBC Theatre & Film).

**SHONA STRUTHERS**  Sound Design & Music Composition, Actor – Ares (April 15  17)

Shona is a UBC BFA Acting Graduate, former Pacific Theatre Apprentice, Affair of Honor company member. An actor, Intermediate FDC Actor Combatant, and Advanced BADC Actor Combatant. Recent select acting credits: Joan of Arc in *Mother of the Maid* (Pacific Theatre), Ensemble in *Soul Samurai* (Affair of Honor), 25 in *The Wolves* (WithASpoon, Rumble). They’re really just doing their best right now, this includes a lot of back exercises, YouTube scrolling, and procrastinating on dish washing. This one’s for Sam and Pip, my annoying and wonderful brothers.

**ELIZABETH YOUNG**  Actor - Athena

Elizabeth was born and raised in Vancouver and holds a BFA in acting (UBC). She has been fortunate enough to work with Affair of Honor for almost three years and loves continuing to learn and laugh with them at any opportunity. Theatre credits include: *Playthings* (Pacific Theatre, and Edmonton Fringe Festival), *Lion in the Streets* (UBC), and *Much Ado About Nothing* (UBC). For film: *Who Am I Now?* (JackDog Films), *Shattered* (Aubade Productions). Elizabeth was also awarded the Kensaku Asano Award from UBC in 2019. Elizabeth holds her Basic Actor Combatant certification with Fight Directors Canada.
We would like to give special thanks to Renee Rebora for creating and donating the Bracers, Chad Cuthbertson for the Paint and supplies, Brannan Cuff and UBS Barber Shop for the hairspray and slick cuts and Mohammad Amin for helping us with finicky technical problems.