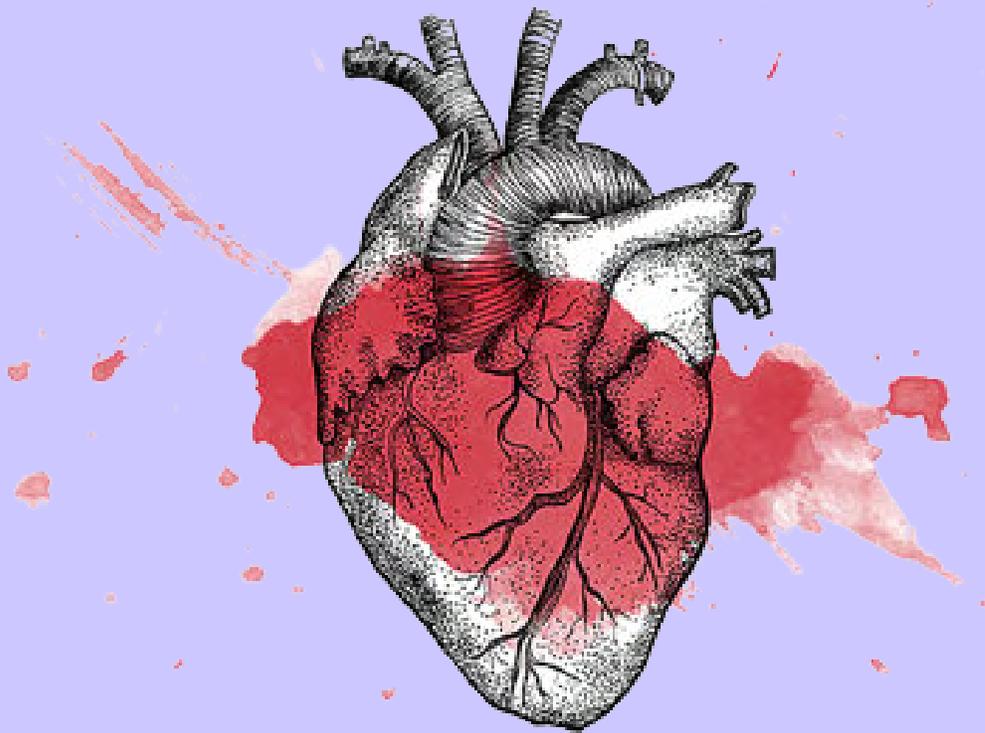


**WITH LOVE AND
A MAJOR ORGAN**



PRODUCTION PRESS

THE AUDIO DRAMA

A new audio version premiering **November 3rd** at the **Primetime Festival** and the first time the full version of the acclaimed play has been performed by Canadian artists.



Michela Cannon | Kaleb Alexander | Fiona Reid | Jenn Villaverde



Deanna H. Choi
Sound Designer

Matt Barber
Composer

Evan Desjardins
Recordist

Clara Altimas
Producer

AUDIO TRAILER

Created in 2020 with a group of artists who were scheduled to be working in other places -- then everything was canceled. We were able to come together and make this play when it was hard to make anything at all.



Julia Lederer
Writer, Director
Co-Producer



Selected press and images from *With Love and a Major Organ* by Julia Lederer



THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

“RECOMMENDED: It’s a fairy tale, but that’s not meant to imply immaturity. On the contrary, Lederer’s dialogue is laced with sophisticated poetry and wry insight into the isolation faced by a generation.”

ON STAGE AND SCREEN (Los Angeles)

“*With Love and a Major Organ* strikes a difficult balance between specificity and universality. Lederer has managed to take themes as old as time and find a new, modern spin that exudes charm from start to finish.”

PASADENA STAR

“Funny, insightful, and end[s] up saying much more about the heart and human interaction than simply being a quirky, poetically symbolic love story... [A]n intricate dance of feeling and separation, empathy and distance, enthusiastic embracing of the world and deadened indifference to input... present... What could be more important than seeing a play like *With Love and a Major Organ*, with its insistence that one’s heart is central to everything.”

BETTER LEMONS

“At its core, *With Love and a Major Organ* is a deeply romantic play which should appeal to theater-goers looking to feed the heart without ignoring the mind.”

LA WEEKLY

“Lederer’s wit and poetic language, along with Kubzansky’s directorial finesse and state-of-the-art staging, make for a beguiling evening of theater....GO!”

STAGE SCENE LA

“Whimsical, magical, and authentically real in its depiction of the vagaries of the human heart, *With Love And A Major Organ* will likely touch anyone’s major organ provided it’s neither paper nor stone. It definitely touched mine.”

- Part of The Theatre @ Boston Court's Polly Warfield Award-winning season
- Nominated for 4 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards including BEST PRODUCTION!
- Nominated for 7 Stage Raw Awards. - Ovation Recommended



Boston Court explores an unusual metaphor for love with its new play 'With Love and a Major Organ'

Posted by Carl Kozlowski | Sep 28, 2017

It's always risky to give one's heart to another when falling in love. But in the new play "With Love and a Major Organ" by Julia Lederer, a young woman gives her actual beating heart to a man she falls in love with during her morning commute on the subway— and then has to embark on a quest to retrieve it when he suddenly disappears.

The eccentric, edgy comedy seeks to make audiences consider the effect that our modern age of technology is having on the phenomenon of physical human interaction. For director Jessica Kubzansky, who's helming the production as it opens tonight and runs through Nov. 5, the play's "beautiful use of language and quirky, really original voice" caught her attention.

"I absolutely loved Julia's voice, because she's a poet for the theater, which is usually one of the first things that attracts me to a piece," says Kubzansky. "This woman gives the man her actual beating heart as a kind of grand gesture. At the same time, his mother has an online therapist called Google Shrink who is suggesting that she actually go on speed dating events, which she's doing virtually.

"There's this really interesting contrast about meeting someone face to face on a subway, and meeting people virtually, which in some ways is extremely safe because you never have to actually interact with them personally," she continues. "These days, it is absolutely the norm to meet people in a virtual environment. Teens and millennials only text and they think it's weird to speak voice to voice on the phone. They notice enough to take a picture and post it on social media but not see the actual event, and that's a profound comment on where we are as a society today."

Actress Bonita Friedericy plays the young man's mother, with "Major" marking her sixth stage collaboration with Kubzansky. She notes that she and the director seek out "language-driven pieces," and also enjoys the fact "there's a magical element to a lot of her sets and shows."

Friedericy finds "Major" intriguing because of its colorful central metaphor, yet finds that the play is extremely prescient due to the fact that Lederer wrote it in 2013, before virtual speed dating even existed.

"It's about the depth of caring we can have for each other, and we've become a society that's very plugged into our devices, asking if this is a good thing or not a good thing or a little bit of both," says Friedericy. "She doesn't make sweeping judgments about things, and invites them to look into it in depth.

"That's one reason I loved [the John Patrick Shanley play] 'Doubt,' an interesting exploration of perception and what's right and what's wrong," Friedericy adds. "This has very heightened language, but it's whimsical and makes me laugh. If I can remember something because I cry and it also makes me laugh, it makes me happy."



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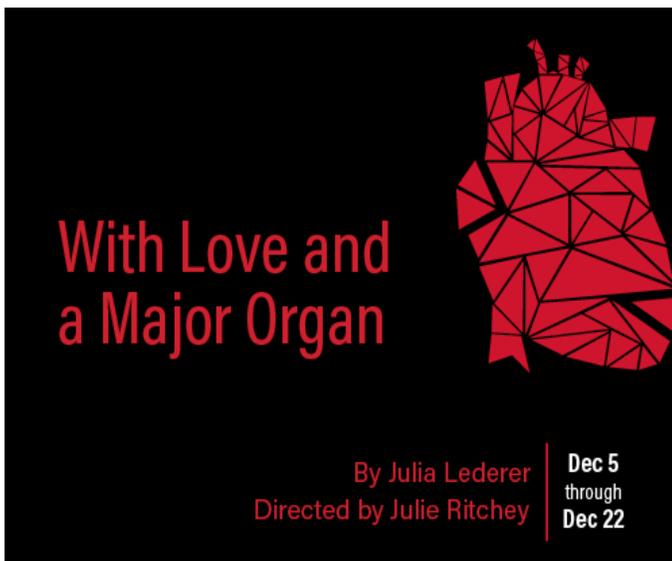




SELECTED OTHER PRODUCTIONS:

BOISE CONTEMPORARY THEATRE

This was the first production to have a cast of three women. [The trailer can be viewed here.](#)



AMERICAN THEATER

"During a time of such upheaval in our world it feels right that BCT would be pulled toward stories like these that acknowledge the complexities of contemporary life, while shining a light on openhearted hope."

-- Matthew Cameron Clark, Artistic Director

STAGE BROADWAY WORLD: BOISE

"Julia Lederer's script was beautiful and original. Poetic and heartbreaking.... a production you don't want to miss."

STRAWDOG THEATRE, CHICAGO NEWCITY STAGE

"RECOMMENDED... a show that stands out above the others... *With Love and a Major Organ* is just about perfect... rises to a rare level of universal truth, all while making us laugh. A lot."

CRAIN'S CHICAGO

"Theater that lets go of realism and embraces the joys of language... wonderfully weird, piercingly poetic and unexpectedly moving...afterward you may feel, as I did, a deep need to talk to someone about the play. Isn't that what theater should do?"

CHICAGO STAGE STANDARD

"Lederer has a deliciously twisted way with words.... [*With Love and a Major Organ*] transposes the magical realism of Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Salvador Plascencia onto a 21st century romantic comedy... genuinely original... a dead sprint and the end result is pure elation mixed with a bit of dry heaving."

One of THEATRE BY NUMBERS Top 5 Productions of the Year in Chicago:

"The major accomplishment of this production is to accurately and imaginatively capture the feelings of falling in love. It is disorienting, funny, exhilarating, frustrating, and beautiful".



TORONTO FRINGE FESTIVAL (2012), NEXT STAGE THEATRE FESTIVAL (2013)



NOW MAGAZINE:

"A brash, poetic and fiercely original voice that's equal parts pee-your-pants funny and get-out-that-Kleenex poignant... Keep your eye on Lederer, whose got huge potential. NNNNN"

TORONTOIST:

"Delightfully absurd... endlessly quotable... poetic, playful, and wholly original... worth lining up hours to see." *****/5

MOONEY ON THEATRE:

"There's a very good reason that WITH LOVE AND A MAJOR ORGAN sold out every single show.....The language Lederer uses in her dialogue is both poetic and accessible, entangling both charm and humour together"

THE SLOTKIN LETTER

"Lederer's facility with language is terrific... Brilliant. Her characters have a quirky sense of humour that is disarming. I saw the work of a young playwright whose work I want to see again."

ETC...

With Love and a Major Organ is the only Canadian play to be featured as a production at **The Last Frontier Theatre Conference** in Valdez, Alaska (in its 25th year/June 2017).

It is also the first Canadian play to be produced at **The Theatre @ Boston Court**.

It is the only Canadian Play to be selected by Mises En Capsules in Paris, France . *Coeur De Papier*, a French translation by Constance Labbé, premiered at [Théâtre LEPIC](#).

 A feature film inspired by *With Love and a Major Organ* (by Julia Lederer) received Telefilm Regional Funding, was short-listed for the Sundance Development Lab and selected for the Whistler Film Festival's Screenwriter's Lab is green lit to shoot January 2022.

"Outstanding New Play" &

"Outstanding Production" (NOW Magazine)

"Best of the Fringe" (Toronto Fringe) Extended at the Toronto Centre for the Arts

"Patron's Pick" (Theatre Passe Muraille)

SCRIPT:

This 60- minute script is published by Scirocco Drama – [available here](#) and on [Amazon here](#).

The full [80-minute version is available at The Canadian Play Outlet](#). A version for three women is also [available here](#).

A monologue from the 80-minute version is included in [The Best Women's Monologues from New Plays, 2019](#).

