



presents

BULL IN A CHINA SHOP

by **BRYNA TURNER**

FEATURING

KELLI SIMPKINS aft *

EMJOY GAVINO*

MARY BETH FISHER*

AURORA ADACHI-WINTER

ADITHI CHANDRASHEKAR

Director **KEIRA FROMM** aft#

Scenic Design **WILLIAM BOLES** aft+

Costume Design **MIEKA VAN DER PLOEG** aft+

Sound Design **ERIC BACKUS**

Lighting Design **CLAIRE CHRZAN**

Props Design **JAMIE KARAS**

Technical Director **JOHNNIE SCHLEYER**

Master Electrician **RAPHAEL GRIMES**

Scenic Painter **STEPH CHARASKA**

Assistant Directors **MIA VIVENS & LAUREN KATZ**

Production Manager **CATHERINE ALLEN**

Stage Manager **HELEN LATTYAK***

Assistant Stage Manager **ANDREA ENGER**

Casting **KEIRA FROMM** aft & **ALEX WEISMAN** aft

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aft Denotes About Face Theatre Artistic Associate

MAY 24 - JUNE 30, 2018
AT THEATER WIT



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BULL IN A CHINA SHOP

by **BRYNA TURNER**

CAST (in order of appearance)

KELLI SIMPKINS aft* (Wooley)

EMJOY GAVINO* (Marks)

MARY BETH FISHER* (Welsh)

AURORA ADACHI-WINTER (Pearl)

ADITHI CHANDRASHEKAR (Felicity)

ALEXIS RANDOLPH (U/S - Wooley, Welsh)

ISABEL THOMPSON (U/S - Marks/Pearl)

JUANITA ANDERSEN (U/S - Felicity)

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director **KEIRA FROMM** aft#

Scenic Design **WILLIAM BOLES** aft*

Costume Design **MIEKA VAN DER PLOEG** aft*

Sound Design **ERIC BACKUS**

Lighting Design **CLAIRE CHRZAN**

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When I first read *Bull in a China Shop* I was immediately struck by how singular it is. I hadn't encountered anything quite like it before. The way it blends historical-Victorian-drama with contemporary-comic-love-story and expressive-feminist-battle-cry is completely unique. I knew it belonged on a Chicago stage, and I was especially excited at the prospect of my artistic home, About Face Theatre, being the company to produce it.

I'm hyper aware of the lack of female narratives in American Theater. Even after the national spotlight courtesy of the Kilroys (the organization dedicated to shining a light on the best unproduced plays by female identifying playwrights), female writers remain underproduced at a far higher rate than their male counterparts. As a result women's stories are seen less frequently. Considering the times we are living in, where women and women's rights are systematically disregarded and subverted, we need plays such as these that remind us of our strength, ability, and resiliency.

I feel guilty admitting that prior to hearing about this play I had no idea who Mary Woolley or Jeannette Marks were, or that they were even real people. And they were revolutionaries! Mary Woolley and Jeannette Marks, who reformed women's education. Mary Woolley and Jeannette Marks, who played such an important role advancing the suffrage movement. Mary Woolley and Jeannette Marks, who concurrently maintained a 50+ year long romantic partnership. Their story deserves to be known. The time is long past for the stories of women to be front and center. Female characters can be more than wives, maids, or sidekicks operating along the periphery. As Jeannette says in the play, women can be "heroes, villains, lovers, and fools." I'm so glad that Bryna Turner wrote a play inspired by Woolley and Marks that carves out space for women to be all of those things.

— Keira Fromm



WHO'S WHO

KELLI SIMPKINS (Woolley) is a company member of Tectonic Theater Project and is one of the original creator/performers of *The Laramie Project* (d/Moises Kaufman)--Off-B'Way, Denver Center, Berkeley Rep., LaJolla Playhouse. THEATER CREDITS: *Charm* (d/Will Davis) at MCC in NYC; *T.* (d/ Margot Bordelon) at ATC; *Men on Boats* (d/Will Davis) at ATC; *The Secretaries* (d/Bonnie Metzgar) at About Face Theatre; *Cocked* (d/Joanie Schultz) at Victory Gardens; *Spill* (dramaturge/performer) at EST and Timeline Theatre (d/Leigh Fondakowski); *Teddy Ferrara* (d/Evan Cabnet) at Goodman; *The Kid Thing* (d/Joanie Schultz) at About Face (Jeff nomination--principle actor); *Pony* (d/Bonnie Metzgar) at About Face; *In Darfur* (d/ Nick Bowling) at Timeline; *Late: A Cowboy Song* (d/Jessica Thebus) at Piven; *Celebrity Row* (d/David Cromer) at ATC; *Fair Use* (d/Meredith McDonough), *Good Boys and True* (d/Pam McKinnon) and *One Arm* (d/ Moises Kaufman) all at Steppenwolf Theatre; *Execution of Justice* (d/Gary Griffon) at About Face; *The People's Temple* (d/Leigh Fondakowski) at The Guthrie, Perseverance and Berkeley Rep.; *I Think I Like Girls* (d/Leigh Fondakowski) at LaJolla and Cherry Lane. *Directing: Good Death*, an original play that she directed and co-wrote with students at Western Michigan University. FILM/TV: *Slice*, *Chicago Fire*, *Patriot*, *Betrayal*, *A League of Their Own*, *Chasing Amy*, *Law & Order: C.I.* and HBO's *The Laramie Project* (Emmy nomination: Ensemble Writing.) Kelli is a 2013 proud recipient of the Chicago 3Arts Award.

EMJOY GAVINO (Marks) is thrilled to make her debut at About Face Theatre. Representative Chicago credits include Steppenwolf Theatre, Court Theater, The Hypocrites, Second City, The House Theater of Chicago, Northlight, Victory Gardens, Remy Bumppo, Paramount, Broadway Playhouse, Lookingglass, The Neo-Futurists, and Goodman Theatre. Regional credits include Repertory Actors Theatre, Book-It Repertory, ACT, and Village Theatre. Film/TV: *The Exorcist*, *Mob Doctor*, *Chicago Fire*, *Empire*, and *Chicago Med*. Enjoy graduated from The School at Steppenwolf. She is the casting director of Gift Theatre, a teaching artist with Barrel of Monkeys, and is the founder and producer of The Chicago Inclusion Project.

MARY BETH FISHER (Welsh) last appeared at About Face in *Little Dog Laughed* and *Theatre District* as well as the staged reading of *The Laramie Project: Epilogue*. Chicago credits include: *Blind Date*, *Luna Gale*, *Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike*, *The Little Foxes*, *The Seagull*, *God Of Carnage*, *The Clean House* (Goodman Theatre); *Domesticated* (Jeff Award), *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *The Dresser*, *The Memory Of Water* (Steppenwolf); *Guess Who's Coming To Dinner*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *Angels In America*, *Three Tall Women*, *The Year of Magical Thinking* (Jeff Award), *The Wild Duck* (Court); *The Normal Heart* (Timeline); *The Taming of The Shrew* (Chicago Shakespeare); *White Guy on The Bus* (Northlight); *The Marriage of Figaro* (Remy Bumppo). NY credits: *Frank's Home* (Playwrights Horizons); *Boy Gets Girl* (Drama League Honoree, Drama Desk and Lucille Lortel nominations); *The Radical Mystique*, *By the Sea*, *By the Sea*, *By the Beautiful Sea* (Manhattan Theatre Club); *The Night Of The Iguana* (Roundabout); *Extremities* (Westside Arts); *Are You Now or Have You Ever Been?* (Promenade). She has worked in regional theatres all over the country and will appear this fall in *Dollhouse Part 2* at Berkeley Rep and at the Huntington Theatre in Boston. TV/Film credits include: *Sense8*, *Chicago Justice*, *Chicago Fire*, *Chicago Code*, *Without a Trace*, *Numb3rs*, *Prison Break*, *NYPD Blue*, *Profiler*, *Early Edition*, *Trauma*, and *Dragonfly*. Ms. Fisher was an Inaugural Lunt-Fontanne Fellow at the Ten Chimneys Foundation and was a Beinecke Fellow at Yale University.

AURORA ADACHI-WINTER (Pearl) is extremely happy to be working with About Face for the first time. Past credits include *Hinter* (Steep Theatre); *Put Your House In Order* (The Roustabouts); *The Burials* (Steppenwolf Theatre); *peerless*, *Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them*, *Two Mile Hollow* (First Floor Theater, Company Member); *good friday* (Oracle Productions); *Ghost Bike* (Buzz22) and *The Fly Honey Show* (The Inconvenience). Next up: *Vietgone* at Writers Theatre. TV credits include *Chicago Med* and Amazon's *Electric Dreams*. Aurora holds a BFA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is represented by the awesome people at Gray Talent Group. Thank you Keira, About Face, the cast and creatives. Love to Amanda, Isa, Mom & Dad.

ADITHI CHANDRASHEKAR (Felicity) is an actor and writer based in Chicago. Her most recent work includes *We're Gonna Be Okay* at American Theater Co., *Open Season* which she wrote and performed through The Gift Theatre's 4802 Residency, *Great Expectations* at Remy Bumppo Theatre and Silk Road Rising (U/S), and *Wit* at The Hypocrites. TV credits including NBC's *Chicago Med* and ABC's *Betrayal*. Adithi is a proud 2015 graduate of the School at Steppenwolf, and has trained at the Second City Training Center, iO Theater, Green Shirt Studios and the Acting Studio Chicago. She is represented by Stewart Talent Agency.

KEIRA FROMM (Director) is a Jeff Award nominated director, casting director, and teacher based in Chicago. Recent directing credits include: *Significant Other*, *Bright Half Life & A Kid Like Jake* (About Face Theatre), *hang* (Remy Bumppo Theatre), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Gynecologic Oncology Unit* at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center of New York City (Route 66 Theatre Company), *The Columnist* (American Blues Theater), *How the World Began* (Rivendell Theatre Ensemble), *Luce* (Next Theatre), *Charles Ives Take Me Home* (Strawdog), *The How and the Why* (Timeline Theatre), *Broadsword* (Gift Theatre), and *Fallow* (Steep Theatre). Keira is a proud Artistic Associate with About Face Theatre. She received her MFA from DePaul University, her BFA from Boston University, is an alumni of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, and is a member of SDC, the professional directors union. Keira is a frequent guest director at DePaul as well as Roosevelt University.

WILLIAM BOLES (Scenic Design) NYC: The Cherry Lane Theatre, REGIONAL: Kirk Douglas Theatre, Children's Theatre Company, Actors Theater of Louisville, Huntington Theater Company, Wolftrap Opera, Minnesota Opera, Milwaukee Rep, Skylight Music Theater, Next Act, and Pig Iron Theatre Company, CHICAGO: Goodman, Steppenwolf, Second City, Lyric Opera, Chicago Opera Theater, Victory Gardens Theater, Paramount Theatre, Chicago Opera Theatre, The Hypocrites (community member), American Theater Company, A Red Orchid, Chicago Children's Theatre, Sideshow (artistic associate), Emerald City, Steep, Step-Up Productions and First Floor Theater. INTERNATIONAL: Stockholm Vocal Academy and Opera Siam in Bangkok. MFA, Northwestern. Represented by Abrams Artists Agency.

MIKA VAN DER PLOEG (Costume Design) is a costume designer based in Chicago. Credits include designs with Paramount Theatre, Writers Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Remy Bumppo Theatre, The Hypocrites, Chicago Children's Theatre, About Face Theatre, The House Theatre, Theater Wit, Next Theatre, The Building Stage, Griffin Theatre, Albany Park Theater Project, Dog and Pony Theatre, and Manual Cinema. She is an Artistic Associate at About Face and a member of USA829.

ERIC BACKUS (Sound Design) is a composer and sound designer based in Chicago. He works nationally, specializing in live sound design and original music composition for plays and musicals. Recently, he was nominated for a Jeff Award for his work on *A Wrinkle in Time* at Chicago's Lifeline Theatre. Eric also designed the Off-Broadway and touring productions of SoloChicago Theatre's *Churchill*, and the Chicago and Los Angeles productions of *Thrones! The Musical Parody*. To hear his music, please visit www.ericbackus.com

CLAIRE CHRZAN (Lighting Design) is excited to collaborate with About Face for the first time. Other credits include: *Evening at the Talk House*, *The Mutilated* and *The Room* (A Red Orchid); *We're Gonna Die*, *Fear and Misery of the Third Reich* (Haven Theatre); *Suddenly Last Summer* (Raven Theatre); *No Blue Memories*, *The Magic City*, *The End of TV* (Manual Cinema); *The? Unicorn? Hour?*, *Saturn Returns* (The Neo-Futurists); *The Distance*, *We're Gonna Die* (Haven Theatre); *Caught* (Sideshow Theatre Company); *After Miss Julie*, *The Night Season* (Strawdog Theatre Company); *Peerless* (First Floor Theater); *Pinocchio* (Neverbird at Chicago Children's Theatre). clairechrzandesigns.com

JAMIE KARAS (Props Design) is excited to be working on *Bull In A China Shop!* In Chicago she has worked on *Girl Found* (Idle Muse); *Flies! The Musical* (Pride Films and Plays); *Le Puff, Or Believe it or Not and Born Yesterday* (Remy Bumpo); *Wolf At The End Of The Block* and *In The Time Of The Butterflies* (Teatro Vista); *Becky Shaw*, *Bootycandy*, *Apartment 3A*, *This*, and *Explorer's Club* (Windy City Playhouse); *Tall Girls* (Shattered Globe); *We're Gonna Be Okay*, *Welcome to Jesus*, and *Men On Boats* (American Theater Company); *Nutcracker* and *Death And Harry Houdini* (House Theatre of Chicago); *Get It All Back* (Sideshow Theatre); *The Invisible Hand*, *Bobbie Clearly*, and *The Cheats* (Steep Theatre); *Gypsy*, *Peter Pan*, and *Mame* (Light Opera Works); *Once In A Lifetime*, *In A Word*, and *D.O.A.* (Strawdog Theatre) and many others. She is also the current Prop Shop Supervisor at Loyola University Chicago.

RAPHAEL GRIMES (Master Electrician) Raphael is a freelance Lighting Designer, Electrician, and Programmer in which capacities he has worked with over 30 Chicago theatres. Master Electrician credits include *Ragtime* (Griffin), *The Portrait of Dorian Grey* (Citylit), and assisting on *Hard Times* (Lookingglass). He just recently opened *Macbeth* with CST, for which he was the programmer. He can regularly be found in Hyde Park, where he is the Asst. Master Electrician at Court Theater, or in Evanston, designing with Mudlark Theatre. He is excited to be working with About Face for the first time on *Bull in a China Shop*.

STEPH CHARASKA (Scenic Painter) is a pro Scenic Artist and hometown gal hailing from the great city of Chicago. You can find this #ResidentJillofAllTrades painting a slew of storefront theatre shows, doing stand up comedy and curating exciting events all about town. You can catch up on all of her adventures at @char.darling on instagram.

MIA VIVENS (Assistant Director) (she/her/hers) is a queer poetess/mover/maker originally hailing from Columbus, Ohio. She is a recent alumna of Valparaiso University, having studied Theater and Dance. She is specifically interested in exploring the intersections of the queer community amongst black and brown folks. She works for About Face Theatre as the Associate Director of Outreach and Engagement. As an actor/director In Chicago she has worked with Collaboraction, About Face, and The Inconvenience and American Theater Company and many other storefront theaters. Thanks for coming!

LAUREN KATZ (Assistant Director) Lauren is thrilled to be back at About Face Theatre for *Bull in a China Shop*. She served as the Artistic Apprentice at Steppenwolf Theatre Company for their 2016/2017 season, and currently freelances in directing, dramaturgy, and teaching artistry. Recent Chicago projects include: *Women Laughing Alone with Salad* (Theater Wit), *Subjective is Beauty* (Prop Thtr), *The Crucible* and *Hir* (Steppenwolf Theatre), *Significant Other* and *Bright Half Life* (Theater Wit/About Face Theatre), and *Apartment 3a* (Windy City Playhouse).

CATHERINE ALLEN (Production Manager) is thrilled to be back working at About Face Theatre where she previously production managed *Time Is On Our Side* and *Significant Other*. Other production management credits include work with Steep Theatre, where she is an Artistic Associate, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, Griffin Theatre, Route 66 Theatre Company, Congo Square, Oak Park Festival Theatre, Pegasus Theatre Chicago, Haven Theatre, Chimera Ensemble, and many circuses with Actors Gymnasium where she is the staff Production Manager. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where she received a BFA in Acting.

HELEN COLLEEN LATTYAK (Stage Manager) Some of Helen's credits include *Significant Other*, *Bright Half Life*, *The Secretaries*, *Le Switch*, *Abe Lincoln Was A Faggot*, and *We Three Lizas* with About Face Theatre. *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Gynecologic Oncology Unit at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Hospital of New York City* with Route 66. *Picnic* at American Theater Company. *Sucker Punch*, *Samsara*, and *Failure: A Love Story*, at Victory Gardens Theater. *Christmas at Christine's*, *Ultra American*, *Muthaland* and *The Hundred Flowers Project* at Silk Road Rising, *Brahman/i: A One-Hijra Stand Up Comedy Show* with About Face Theatre and Silk Road Rising. Helen is a company member and production manager at TUTA Theater Chicago. She is a graduate of Loyola University Chicago and a member of the Actors' Equity Association.

ANDREA ENGER (Assistant Stage Manager) is delighted to be working with About Face Theatre again after working on *Significant Other*. Some of their favorite credits include being the ASM for *Picnic* at American Theater Company and *Good Friday* at Oracle Productions. Most recently, they were the PSM on *Another Jungle* at Cloudgate Theatre/The Syndicate. They have a BA in Theatre from Columbia College Chicago.

DAVID ROSENBERG (Publicity) specializes in public relations campaigns for commercial and non-profit performing arts companies. He currently works with more than 25 Chicago theatre companies and arts organizations. He previously served as Communication Director for Steppenwolf Theatre. He is a proud company member with Barrel of Monkeys. For additional information, visit drpublicrelations.com.

MEGAN CARNEY (AFT Artistic Director) is a director, playwright, and educator. She recently directed *Time is On Our Side* at About Face and several recent premieres at Rivendell Theatre Ensemble including *Winter*, *Body/Courage*, and *American Wee Pie*. She was also the lead interviewer and playwright for *Women at War*, a multi-year performance and civic dialogue project about women in the military. Megan was a founding director of About Face Youth Theatre and served as Associate Artistic Director for several years while she created original ensemble plays. Carney's work has been recognized with multiple awards. Before returning to About Face this season, she served as the Director of the Gender and Sexuality Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago from 2011-2017 where she created arts based educational programs for and about diverse LGBTQIA+ people and communities. She has a MFA in Theatre Arts from Virginia Tech with a focus on Directing and Public Dialogue.



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Everyone here: folks in the audience... the person who handed you this program... somewhere on or off the stage there are actors... if you look up in the corner you might get a glimpse of the stage manager in the booth... We're all in this room for the same reason: to be a part of this shared experience. No matter who they are or where they come from; no matter if they are complete strangers or familiar faces; no matter how different the age, the race, or the walk of life; after this performance, you will have something in common. So, strike up a conversation in the lobby, introduce yourself to someone new. Meet our staff, shake hands with an actor, get a drink from our bar. We're all in this together.

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Theater is part of the Chicago experience. Each year, over 200 theaters present thousands of shows to Chicago's loyal and enthusiastic theater-going audience. Chicago's theater community is recognized around the world for its talent, its innovation and its power to entertain and enlighten. If Tony awards were sports championships, our artists would beat out the combined efforts of Michael Jordan, Bobby Hull, Jim McMahon, Jermaine Dye, and the entire Chicago Cubs roster going back 100 years. This stage is a Chicago stage, contributing to the vibrant artistic life of our city and the economic development of our neighborhood. Very few cities on the planet offer the theatrical richness and diversity of Chicago. But you get to share in it. Because you are here.



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