

Presents

I Know My Own Heart

By Emma Donoghue

FEATURING

Jessie Ellingsen, Eleanor Katz, Lauren Grace Thompson,
and Vahishta Vafadari

Costume Design

Rachel M. Sypniewski

Dialect Coach

Vahishta Vafadari

Lighting & Sound Design

Blake Cordell

Stage Manager

Corey Bradberry

Prop Design

Jonathan Berg-Einhorn

Assistant Director

Melanie Thompson

Scenic Painter

Elyse Balogh

Intimacy Choreographer

Sarah Scanlon

Director

Elizabeth Swanson

Opening January 13, 2019

Pride Films and Plays extends great thanks to Qantas Airlines,
our season sponsor



CAST LIST

Anne Lister Vahishta Vafadari
Marianne Brown Lauren Grace Thompson
Nancy Brown Jessie Ellingsen
Isabella (Tib) Norcliffe Eleanor Katz

ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES



Jessie Ellingsen (Nancy) is thrilled to work with PFP for the first time! Chicago credits include *Romeo & Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare All-Stars), *Bringing Iraq Home* (Waltzing Mechanics), *Cicada Summer* (Rough House), and *Wise Women & Witches* (Piven). Jessie is a proud Loyola grad.



Eleanor Katz (Tib) is making her PFP debut. Credits include *City Lit*; *OPFT*; *BoHo* (Company Member); *Raven* (Jeff Nomination); *Factory*; *Halcyon*; *Promethean*; *Redtwist*; *Babes With Blades*. Voice overs include *Litehouse* (US, Canada); *Microsoft*; *Hasbro*. MA Acting, East 15 (London); BA Theatre Arts, Muhlenberg College. "Always for Justin & Zev." www.eleanorkatz.com



Lauren Grace Thompson (Marianne) is thrilled to work with Pride Films and Plays for the first time. Past credits: *Frankenstein* (Lifeline Theatre); *Twelfth Night* (Montana Shakespeare in the Parks); *The Seagull*, *Julius Caesar* (Michigan Shakespeare Festival); *Ring 'Round the Moon* (Oklahoma Shakespeare). She has a BFA from Oklahoma City University.



Vahishta Vafadari (Anne Lister & Dialect Coach) is so excited to be working with PFP for the first time. Recent Chicago credits include, *Les Innocents/ The Innocents* (re)discover theatre), *Cyrano* (BoHo Theatre), and *As You Like It* (First Folio). In addition to acting Vahishta has also been dialect coaching and teaching around this awesome city. Vahishta received her MFA in Acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University and is represented by Gray Talent Group. vahishtavafadari.com

Sonia Goldberg (Understudy for Anne, Tib) is thrilled to be working with PFP on this production! Recent Chicago credits include *The Snow Queen* (Filament Theatre); *Masque Macabre* (Strawdog Theatre Company) *Richard III* (Muse of Fire); *Oliver!* (Windy City Performs); *Peter and the Starcatcher* (E.D.G.E. of Orion Theatre).

Liz Weiner (Understudy for Marianne, Nancy) is very #blessed to make her PFP debut! A 2018 graduate of the BFA Acting program at The Theatre School at DePaul University, some favorite university credits include: *Twelfth Night* (Feste), *26 Miles* (Olivia), *Uncle Vanya* (Yelena), and *in a word* (Fiona). Liz will be touring with Hampstead Stage's *Wizard of Oz* and *Treasure Island* in the spring.

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Emma Donoghue (Author) is an Irish-Canadian playwright, literary historian, novelist, and screenwriter. Her 2010 novel *Room* was a finalist for the Man Booker Prize and an international best-seller. Donoghue's 1995 novel *Hood* won the Stonewall Book Award, and *Slammerkin* (2000) won the Ferro-Grumley Award for Lesbian Fiction. *Room* was adapted into a film of the same name, for which Donoghue wrote the screenplay which was subsequently nominated for the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay. More information at www.emmadonoghue.com.

Corey Bradberry (Stage Manager) is an award-winning director/producer, recently transplanted from Atlanta. Chicago credits: *The Man That Corrupted Christmas*, *THE LAKES* (Inertia Theatre Project); 24-Hour Playfests (iO, Eclectic Theatre). Education: M.F.A. Directing, B.A. Theatre & Performance Studies (Performance Concentration), Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre, Second City Chicago. www.coreybradberry.com

Blake Cordell (Lighting & Sound Designer) returns to PFP after having previously worked on *Pink Orchids*, *Green Bay Tree*, and *It's Only a Play*. He has worked with a number of other theaters on premiers including *Everybody* (Brown Paper Box Co.), *Mongers* (Her Story), *Warrior Class* (Comrades), *Nick and Zoe* (the side project), and at Director's Haven (Haven). More info available at blakecordell.com.

Sarah Scanlon (Intimacy Choreographer) is a multi-disciplinary actor and intimacy choreographer. Recent collaborations in various capacities include Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival, Steep, Lifeline, The Conspirators, Factory Theater, Akvavit, Redtwist, and A.R.T, among others. She holds an MFA in Acting with a movement concentration from the Moscow Art Theatre School. Say hi at sarahscanlon.com.

Elizabeth Swanson (Director) is thrilled to direct her first production with Pride Films & Plays. Recent credits include *Hildegard* (Chicago Fringe Festival), *Where All the White Sneakers At?* (Second City), and *Lungs* (Granary Theatre, Cork, Ireland). Assistant directing credits include *Fun Home* (Victory Gardens Theater), *Love's Labor's Lost* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), and *Vardo* for the Dublin Theatre Festival (Anu Productions). Elizabeth has an M.F.A. in theatre directing from the Lir National Academy of Dramatic Arts at Trinity College, Dublin. elizabethswansondirector.com

Rachel M. Sypniewski (Costume Design) is excited to be working with Pride Films and Plays for the first time! Other companies she has worked with include Goodman, Broken Nose, North Park University, The New Colony, Windy City Playhouse, Emerald City, Red Tape, Wild Claw, Redtwist, Lifeline, Haven, 20% Theatre, 16th Street Theater, Griffin, Promethean, Strawdog, Vitalist, Rasaka, and Factory. Rachel is a company member with The Factory and an Artistic Associate with Trap Door, 16th Street Theatre and Griffin. More info at www.rachelsyp.com.

Melanie Thompson (Assistant Director) is excited for *I Know My Own Heart!* Past credits include: *The Lonesome West* (AstonRep), *KOALAS* (16th Street Theatre Co.), *Docfest 2018: Learning 101* (Erasing the Distance), *Shockheaded Peter* (Black Button Eyes Productions),. She's a company member at AstonRep & received her BA at Dominican University! Endlessly thanking friends, family & Prince the Cat for their endless love & support!

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I could not help it; the restlessness was in my nature; it agitated me to pain sometimes. Then my sole relief was to walk along the corridor of the third story, backwards and forwards, safe in the silence and solitude of the spot, and allow my mind's eye to dwell on whatever bright visions rose before it—and, certainly, they were many and glowing; to let my heart be heaved by the exultant movement . . . and, best of all, to open my inward ear to a tale that was never ended—a tale my imagination created, and narrated continuously; quickened with all of incident, life, fire, feeling, that I desired and had not in my actual existence.

-Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (1847)

If the essential core of the person is denied or suppressed, he gets sick sometimes in obvious ways, sometimes in subtle ways, sometimes immediately, sometimes later.

-Abraham Maslow, *Toward a Psychology of Health* (1956)

We don't need another ruler

All of my friends are kings

I'm not America's nightmare

I'm the American dream

-Janelle Monáe, "Crazy, Classic Life" (2018)

ABOUT PRIDE FILMS AND PLAYS

Pride Films and Plays creates diverse new work (or work that is new to Chicago) with LGBTQ+ characters or themes that is essential viewing for all audiences. We accomplish this mission through fully-staged productions, writing contests and staged readings, and filming one short film each season.

PFP is the primary tenant in the Pride Arts Center, which connects and promotes other artists who share our values, creating a safe environment for all. PAC books one-night events or limited runs, cabaret, film, dance, comedy, and other events. In 2015, Huffington Post called PFP "A powerful and empowering entity."

PFP is a member of the Belmont Theater District, League of Chicago Theaters, Buena Park Neighbors, LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois, Northhalasted Business Alliance, and Uptown United. PFP is part of the Smart Growth program at Chicago Community Trust.

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THE WILSON SOCIETY

Pride Films and Plays thanks donors who pledged a recurring donation to PFP to defray monthly costs of rent, utilities, wifi, staffing and much more. Return members are invited to special rehearsals and other behind-the-scenes activities. We couldn't make this big space work without your help!

Anonymous, Robert Bailey, Andrea Bennett, David Bentlin, Michael Daigle and Bradley Borowiec, Judge Tom Chiola (Retired), Alan Eddington, Tom Elkas & Don Johnson, Katherine Harris, Dennis R. Kane, Masahiro Kasai, Christopher Kidder-Mostrom, Don Voigt & Michelle McKenzie-Voigt, Rick Kinnebrew & Martha Meyer, Jack Meyer, Amy J. Moncher, Nelson A. Rodriguez, Rusty Hernandez and Jeffrey Sanfilippo, Michael Schoenig, Stephanie Hardiman Simon, George Smart, Amber Mandley & Cheri Tatar, Aiki Thomas, Transformations by Rori, Christopher Kirbabas & David Zak.

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