

## Writer's Note

As a poet, I do not approach the difficult subject matter of my childhood; instead, I let it approach me. A poem about a dog or a bird or a potato becomes about family structures breaking down or about meeting my father for the first time in the Binghamton Airport when I was seventeen or about how complicated loneliness is. To me, writing a play is not a drafted plan; it is a balance between forgetting the truth and understanding it. There is a misconception that poets and playwrights who incorporate humor are not allowed to be serious. To me, the true vulnerability of a subject lies somewhere between its humor and grief. I write in fragments of a language that I was raised with. When writing this play, I couldn't stop thinking about how present the absence of a parent feels, or about the whimsical aspects of cruel language, or about how hard it is for children to take care of each other.

Endless endless thank you to Sherry Kramer who taught me how important not making sense is, that prescriptive feedback is stupid, and for dealing with my nonsense on the phone. Thank you Emma Welch for dealing with my nonsense face to face, and for your hard work which makes me laugh the hardest and breaks my heart the hardest, and for being my best friend. Thank you Michael Dumanis, Phillip B. Williams, Camille Guthrie, Brando Skyhorse and Jean Randich for all of your support and to the cast, crew, and design team: Abby, Sierra, and Taelen for making this play so shiny and thank you Fiona from preventing this play from being unalive. AND BIG THANK YOU TO WEBB CRAWFORD FOR YOUR MUSIC AND YOUR UNDERSTANDING. Thank you to Nila, Ceylon, & Sabina for HOLDING ME UP !!

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In the world of The Nicosia Sisters, you do not meet your father until you turn 17. To quote Izzy, this play "is about what happens when emptiness is the norm. If you are missing something from the moment you were born, it only feels like a loss, like a gap because everyone tells you it is. This play is what happens when no one treats it like a loss but as something that is yet to arrive." // Last fall, on a gorgeous Vermont night, giddy from watching senior work by three incredible Bennington women, Izzy and I ran up the hill to Jennings, screaming about work that has one audience member in tears and another in fits of laughter; work that tells new stories, or old stories in new ways; work that celebrates women. The vision of art like this has driven the creation of this show. // This play is alive. We are premiering this work. The actors soaked up the language and characters and inspired rewrites. The vision of the play expanded through the designers' ideas. I am lucky to be at the head of this ship that is sailing on so much creativity and malleability, all because of the genius and honesty of our friend Izzy and the play she has given us to share.

thank you....

AUDIENCE: for supporting student work, as long as you are moved, it doesn't matter in which direction. DINA, JANIS, JEAN, JENNY, KERRY, KIRK & KITTY: for teaching me how to say "I am an actor and an artist." MOM & DAD: for letting me follow my heart and gut. JAMIE: for chunking into gear once again. IVY: for telling me I'm good at things and meaning it. JEAN & BENNINGTON PLAYS: for supporting me when I needed it and offering when I was afraid to ask.

DESIGNERS: for your artistry and patience and individuality, for being gentle and inquisitive in bringing this play to life. CAST: for trusting me when I went way out of my comfort zone, for breathing deep and going hog wild. IZZY: for making a play for young women, for being honest with me, for being my partner one more time. FIONA: for listening, for your grace, patience, laughter and care, for giving me hope and honesty. I love you more than karaoke.

## CAST

Ann.....Sara Din  
Genevieve.....Edie Salas-Miller  
Cecelia.....Chloe Amos  
Frances.....Mary Alice Stewart  
Anthony.....Jade Pope  
Roberta.....Liliana Hogan  
Father.....Musa Ghaznavi

## CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright.....Izzy Casey  
Director.....Emma Welch  
Set Designer.....Taelen Renae Robertson  
Costume Designer.....Sierra Reid  
Lighting Designer.....Abbey Starling  
Sound Designer.....Webb Crawford  
Original Song Composition.....Izzy Casey, Web Crawford  
Stage Manager.....Fiona DeVito  
Assistant Stage Manager.....Kaitlin Andreas  
Light Board Operator.....Katharine Rose  
Sound Board Operator.....Logan Robinson  
Stagehand.....Grant Harlow  
Wardrobe.....Keely Durkin, Austin Patrick  
Poster Design.....Garland McCutcheon  
Twinkie Dropper.....Bronwyn Edwards

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