

Rotate Theatre Company

presents

*(Almost) Making Let's Eat Mary*



This project was made possible through partnerships and generous support from many individuals and organizations, including: UW Theatre & Drama Graduate Student Org (Julie Vogt Open Stages), 4W Initiative, UW South Madison Partnership, UW Dept of Gender & Women's Studies, UW Dept of Theatre & Drama, Madison Public Library, UW Center for Culture, History, & Environment, UW Center for Research on Gender & Women, UW GLBT Alumni Council (Milo & Virgil's Fabulous Fund), Pivot Sewing Studio, and UW Division of the Arts.

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## Accessibility

Please view our current [Access Chart](#), or contact us with any questions, ideas, or requests regarding access or accommodations: [rotatetheatre@gmail.com](mailto:rotatetheatre@gmail.com)

608-515-8912

# Land and Labor Acknowledgement

This project was created in the Great Lakes Region, where many Native nations and Indigenous communities have long cultural and governmental histories that go back thousands of years and continue today, despite genocidal invasion and ongoing colonization by the United States.

Much of the production took place on occupied Ho-Chunk land in Teejop / Madison, and in connection with UW-Madison, a “land-grab university.”

We used buildings and technology disproportionately built and cared for through the ongoing extraction of materials and labor from BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) and other marginalized communities around the world.

This context, and how we respond collectively and as individuals, impacts our work, our communities, and our stories.

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## *(Almost) Making Let's Eat Mary*

A video featuring the cast and crew of what would have been the world premiere of the stage play *Let's Eat Mary!*



Before the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered theatres across the country, the collaborators had already experienced months working on this unique production. In the 65 minute video, the cast and crew offer audiences a window into a rehearsal process designed with attention to accessibility and sustainability, discuss Allen's delightfully biting feminist comedy, and share clips from remote rehearsals.

# Cast and Crew

Written by Brooke Allen

Directed by Richard Paro

Produced by Cyra K. Polizzi

## Cast

Maria Cina

Jane

Emily Hanson

Kitty

Quanda Johnson

Mrs. Bennet / Charlotte

Mallory Lewis

Lydia

Shaniqua "Nikko" Murphy

Elizabeth

Cyra K. Polizzi

Mary

## The Obstinate Headstrong Girls

Huan-Hua Chye

Guitar

Whitney Thompson

Keyboard / Keytar

## Production Credits

### **Access Team**

Molly Mattaini, Access Designer

Cyra K. Polizzi, Lead Rehearsal Facilitator

### **Costume Team**

Jessica Dexter, Lead Designer

Pamela Grant

### **Sets / Props Team**

Jessica Dexter

Cakelin Marquardt

Richard Paro

### **Music Team**

Brooke Allen, Lyrics

Allison Hendrix, Music for “In My Head”

Arrangements by Chye, Thompson, and Polizzi

### **Stage Management Team**

Rini Tarafder, Stage Manager

Molly Mattaini

Video Editing by Polizzi and Paro

## Synopsis of *Let's Eat Mary*

*Let's Eat Mary*, a delightfully biting feminist comedy, finds the *Pride and Prejudice* siblings rowing up to a tiny desolate island on a quest to escape the patriarchy... or at least that's what Lizzie keeps going on about. Without connections to this new place, the sisters struggle to shed old expectations and soon wonder if they've made the right choice leaving everything behind. Perhaps removal and isolation can't provide what they seek... or maybe this whole ordeal is Mary's fault, she's the worst. Fast-paced and brushed with punk-rock, politics, and heart, *Let's Eat Mary* takes an absurd leap where *Pride and Prejudice* leaves off, bringing audiences, regardless of their familiarity with Jane Austen's original, on a hilarious ride satirizing our current state of affairs.

## Production History

The world premiere of the stage play *Let's Eat Mary* was to perform at various locations in Madison, WI from May 15 - May 31, 2020. To support the health of our communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, the culmination of *Let's Eat Mary* was reimagined as the video *(Almost) Making Let's Eat Mary*, part of Rotate Theatre's fully remote 2020/2021 season.

Prior to this (almost) world premiere production, the script was workshopped in Chicago, a fitting journey for a script by Allen who is Chicago-based and Wisconsin-raised. A staged reading featuring an early draft of the script was directed by Breahan Eve Pautsch and featured Kirstin Franklin, Enjoy Gavino, Carmen Molina, Cyra K. Polizzi, Jillian Rea, Sadieh Rifai, and Bethany Thomas, with music by Allison Hendrix.

## Artist Bios



**Brooke Allen**  
Playwright  
*she/her*

Brooke Allen's works have been produced in major theatre centers including New York, London, and Chicago, where she's collaborated with Red Tape Theatre, Ruckus Theatre, Tympanic Theatre Company, Not Waiting Productions, and HealthWorks Theatre. Allen is best known for her plays *Ruby Wilder*, *The Deer*, and *The Life and Death of Madam Barker*. As a live lit storyteller, Allen has appeared with *Mortified*, *Write Club*, *You're Being Ridiculous*, and *The Paper Machete*. Allen is a graduate of the Creative Writing program at Webster University and is currently pursuing a degree in counseling.



**Huan-Hua Chye**  
Guitar  
*she/her, they/them*

Huan-Hua Chye is a musician based in Madison, WI, currently active in the indie pop band *Gentle Brontosaurus* and the transatlantic synthpop collaboration *Vowl Sounds*. Huan-Hua also creates solo recordings under the name *miscellaneous owl* and performs in tribute and cover projects of artists such as Liz Phair, Hall and Oates, The Go-Go's, The Beach Boys, and Elvis. She grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area, graduated from UC Berkeley in linguistics, and when she's not playing music, writing, cooking, sewing, knitting, or otherwise creating, she works in translation and volunteers in wildlife rehabilitation.



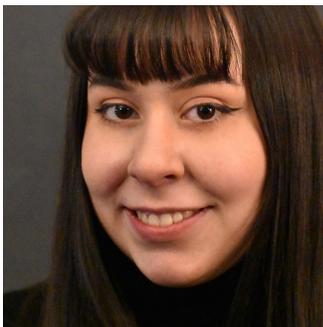
**Maria Cina**  
Jane  
*she/her, they/them*

Maria Cina would like to thank all her wonderful family, friends, and mentors for assisting her through her wild journey as a theatre artist. "Y'all amazin'!" Maria is so happy to work with this fabulous new cast and crew. "Having the pleasure of working on new theatre is truly something special." Past credits include "Seneca Howland" in *Men on Boats* (Sean Langeneker) with *Strollers Theatre* and "Kendra" in *The Gulf* (Cory Helser) with *Rankin Theatre Guild*. Maria has studied with *The Gaiety School Of Acting* and is currently studying with *UM-Twin Cities*.



**Jessica Dexter**  
Costume Designer,  
Sets / Props Team  
*she/her*

Jessica Dexter has held just about every kind of role, on- or off-stage, in theatre, film, and puppetry over the years, but costuming is secretly dearest to her heart. Born into a long line of sewists, Jess has been honing her sewing skills for over thirty years. In 2018, she founded Pivot Sewing Studio in Duluth, MN, offering costume and clothing design, construction, and alterations from a body-positive, intersectional-feminist, gender-inclusive worldview. Jess is a proud member of the Rotate Theatre ensemble, and she is absolutely thrilled to serve as costume designer for Let's Eat Mary!



**Pamela Grant**  
Costume Team  
*she/her*

Pamela Grant recently graduated from Oregon High School. She won a Jerry Award for her costume design of OHS's production of The Wizard of Oz. Pamela was also involved in her school's Imagine, Diversity, and GSA clubs. This is her first show with Rotate Theater Company.



**Emily Hanson**  
Kitty  
*she/her*

Emily Hanson is overjoyed to have joined such a wonderful cast and crew in this production of Let's Eat Mary. Her most recent credits include Urinetown (Little Sally) and Peter Pan (Peter Pan). Emily is currently studying anthropology, psychology, archaeology, and studio art at UW-Madison. Emily is forever grateful to her friends and family for their ongoing support.



**Quanda Johnson**  
Mrs. Bennet,  
Charlotte  
*she/her*

Quanda Johnson has performed on Broadway, in opera, regional theater, and international tours. She is a doctoral student in Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies at UW-Madison, seeking ways to utilize performance to disrupt and consequently alter entrenched, cyclical conversations about Blackness and the African Diaspora. Johnson is a Fulbright Scholar, has an MFA in Acting from the New School University (NYC), a Master of Music from the Conservatory of Music at Brooklyn College, and a MA from NYU - Gallatin. Her work is dedicated to the memory of the first artist in her life, her mother, Vernetta.



**Mallory Lewis**  
Lydia  
*she/her, they/them*

Mallory Lewis is a 2020 graduate of UW-Madison with an Acting Specialist degree. She has credits in the University Theatre mainstage production of *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, as well as UTA productions of *Critics Choice* and *Three Witches*. Mallory also performed in *Bursting the Thought Bubble* in the Marcia Legere play festival. Prior to UW-Madison, she was a lead in *The Vagina Monologues* and *Rocky Horror Picture Show* while at Muhlenberg College. She is grateful to her family and friends and would like to thank all those involved in this production for making this a wonderful experience.



**Cakelin Marquardt**  
Sets / Props Team  
*they/them*

Cakelin Marquardt is a scientist and writer for machines and humans. Their focus is on empowering diverse individuals and communities with their own data, through *Nudges IO* and *Polco*. They are currently a co-organizer of *Madison Women in Tech* and a disability advocate. If they aren't writing poetry, painting, or reading up on progressive policy, they're probably watching sci-fi or at a *Madison Circus Space* class.



**Molly Mattaini**  
Access Designer  
*she/her*

Molly Mattaini is a PhD student at UW-Madison in Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies with a Specialization in Theatre for Youth and a doctoral minor in Special Education. She studies Ability-Inclusive Sensory Theatre, a genre within TYA which creates theatrical experiences for neurodiverse young people, particularly children on the autism spectrum. Molly is also a working teaching artist and is dedicated to creating ability-inclusive drama education spaces along with inclusive aesthetic spaces.



**Shaniqua "Nikko"  
Murphy**  
Elizabeth  
*she/her*

Shaniqua "Nikko" Murphy's previous credits include Almost Maine (Strollers), Sister Girl (Broom Street), Temps! The Musical (Mercury Players), Star Wars: The Panto (Mercury Players), Rock of Ages (Madison Theatre Guild) and Falsettos (StageQ). She would like to thank her family and friends for their love and a special thanks goes to the amazing cast, crew, and production team of Let's Eat Mary.



**Richard Paro**  
Director  
*he/him*

Richard Paro is an award winning theatre and film director based in Madison, WI. Richard is a Rotate Theatre ensemble member and has worked with various other theatre companies including Stage 773, Arc, Theatre-Hikes, Prologue, Tympanic, Fury, and Stockyards Theatre Project. In addition, his feature-length and short films have screened at film festivals around the world. Always excited to share his favorite theatre, movies, and music with new audiences, Richard has worked in festival programming and organizing for years in Chicago, Milwaukee, and surrounding areas. [www.richardparo.com](http://www.richardparo.com)



**Cyra K. Polizzi**  
Mary, Access Team,  
Producer  
*they/them, she/her*

Cyra K. Polizzi is an actor who works in various areas of performing arts and education. Much of Cyra's work incorporates humor, queer possibilities, and multi-issue activism. Cyra started performing at age five in the driftless area of rural WI, attended UW-Madison in Theatre Acting, Gender & Women's Studies, and Environmental Studies, and spent 15 years working in performing arts in Chicago before having the pleasure of returning to Teejop / Madison. Cyra's work is also informed by their transdisciplinary graduate research with GWS and CHE asking questions about accessibility and sustainability in theatre practices. [www.cyrakpolizzi.com](http://www.cyrakpolizzi.com)



**Rini Tarafder**  
Stage Manager  
*she/her*

Rini Tarafder is a graduate student in Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies at UW-Madison. Her research is about cosmopolitanism and theatre in India, and she also thinks about colonialism, global theatre histories, inclusivity, and multicultural situations. As a playwright, Rini's works have been performed at festivals in Madison and in educational spaces in India. She also experiments with poetry, music, musical instruments, photography and digital forms of performance art. Rini's ideal day would include walking through the woods, looking at birds.



**Whitney Thompson**  
Keyboards / Keytar  
*she/her, they/them*

Whitney Thompson is an actor, musician, and dancer based in Madison, WI. Recent credits include "Margo" in Hark! A Lark! with Broom Street Theater. When she's not rehearsing, she's usually busy reading about queer history, thrift-shopping, or playing with her vintage keytar. Whitney is a music cataloging specialist by day and a bed for her two cats by night.

# About Rotate Theatre



Rotate Theatre Company, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, creates and celebrates performing arts featuring underrepresented perspectives.

By embracing practices that enrich the lives of collaborative artists, engage audiences in laughter and discussion, and incorporate multidirectional education, Rotate Theatre Company contributes to larger webs of strategies that build more just futures for artists and the general public.

## Ensemble / Board Members

Ashely Bagot, Jessica Dexter, Crystal Hartford, Richard Paro, Breahan Eve Pautsch, Cyra K. Polizzi

## Contact Info

### **Rotate Theatre Company**

[RotateTheatre@gmail.com](mailto:RotateTheatre@gmail.com) . 608-515-8912

[www.rotatetheatre.org](http://www.rotatetheatre.org)

## Support Rotate Theatre!

We so hope you enjoyed *(Almost) Making Let's Eat Mary*, and we hope you'll stay in touch!

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## Become a Rotate Theatre donor today!



Like many theatres, we're using alternative ticketing models to offer a significant number of free tickets to our productions, available to all.

Donations to arts orgs like ours are essential. We hope you'll consider donating today!

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Thank you!