

theatre **KAPOW**

Natural Shocks

by Lauren Gunderson

Friday, October 23, 7:30 pm

Saturday, October 24, 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Sunday, October 25, 2:00 pm

Live Stream

Welcome!

It's fair to say that all theater is about connection, but that's never felt more true to me than while working on *Natural Shocks* in the middle of a pandemic, an opportunity that has taught me much, and for which I will always be grateful.

The play's one, lovely character, Angela, is reaching out to us – desperately, and with brilliance, humor, resilience, and vulnerably, because she doesn't have anyone else. It is a lot of responsibility to be someone's last and only hope, and that sensibility has driven us to push and play with this technology: exploring, hypothesizing, experimenting with how to tell this story through a live stream. If it's our only hope of making a connection, can it be enough? Can Angela reach you? Can you reach her?

She's a character in a play, but in these troubled times, she's not the only one alone in her basement, waiting out the storm, wondering if anyone out there is listening. Let's keep finding ways to reach each other.

~Wanda Strukus, Director



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theatre KAPOW presents

Natural Shocks

by Lauren Gunderson

Angela..... Rachael Chapin Longo
Director..... Wanda Strukus
Lighting Design..... Tayva Young
Camera and Light Board Operator..... Matt Cahoon

~ There is no intermission ~ Running time: 65 minutes ~

Natural Shocks is presented by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

The Company

Rachael Chapin Longo (Angela) received her BS in Theater from Skidmore College and her MA in Educational Theatre from NYU. She is an actor, director, and playwright. Rachael has dedicated herself to educational theatre and arts administration and has worked as a professional teaching artist and education director; creating curriculum and teaching classes in acting, directing, playwriting and movement. Her directing credits include *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Laramie Project*, *The Death of a Caterpillar*, *West Side Story*, *The Tempest*, *South Pacific*, *Sister Act*, *Singin' in the Rain* and *Silent Sky*. Acting credits include *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Crucible*, *Desdemona*, *Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play*, *The Penelopiad* and *The Burial at Thebes*. She was a finalist for a NHTA "Best Director" Award in 2019. Rachael has taught with many NY based theater theaters including The New Victory Theatre, Pelham Arts Center and Lighthouse Youth Arts Center. She served as the Director of Education and Operations Manager for The Play Group Theatre in White Plains, NY for several years. Rachael is currently an adjunct professor of acting and theater arts in the Visual and Performing Arts Department at Merrimack College. She is also a company member and actor with theatre KAPOW. She is grateful to have the support of the KAPOW family as she continues to train and learn, especially in these uncertain times. This is Rachael's first solo show and it's been a wonderful challenge and a joy to be directed by Wanda Strukus again! Special thanks to Wanda, her fabulous partner in this storm of a show. She is so thankful for all her guidance, support, insight and friendship.

Wanda Strukus (Director) is a theater-maker and movement artist who focuses on ensemble-building, collaborative creation, site-specific performance, and participatory practices. She is thrilled to be collaborating again with the theatre KAPOW team, and is grateful for the opportunity to experiment with new technologies, creating theater in and for this strange time. Her previous theater and dance work has appeared in theaters, galleries, parks, and abandoned buildings throughout New England and the Midwest, through collaborations with The Revolving Museum, Shakespeare in the Valley, Another Country, Chamber Theatre Productions, The Young Company of Greater Boston Stage Company, theatre KAPOW, The Yellow Springs Theater Company, Babes with Blades, Chicago Women's Theatre Alliance, and others. She has

taught, directed, and choreographed at colleges and universities throughout New England, and was the founding director of the BFA in Contemporary Theater at Boston Conservatory at Berklee. She is an alumna of the Jacob's Pillow Choreographer/Director Lab and performed for many years with Daniel McCusker Dance Projects and Brian Crabtree and Dancers. Her most recent pandemic project is *Field*, a dance created for small audiences in small fields. Past directing projects with theatre KAPOW include the 24-hour Theater Festival and *Desdemona: A Play About a Handkerchief*. She is honored and delighted to reunite with Rachael Longo for this intense, funny, challenging, and deeply moving play.

Tayva Young (Lighting Designer) is in her 10th year with tKAPOW. She is feeling blessed to be working on the 13th season: *We Can Get Through This*. She is excited to be a part of a production that is thinking out of the box and working hard to still bring you a form of Live Theatre. She considers tKAPOW her theatre family and could not have asked for a more talented, supportive and imaginative group of people to work with. She has been honored with two NH Theater Awards for best Lighting Design for *Time Stands Still* and *Living in Exile*. Some of her favorite tKAPOW productions are: *Melancholy Play* by Sarah Ruhl, *Living in Exile* by Jon Lipsky, *Grounded* by George Brant and *Silent Sky* by Lauren Gunderson. She enjoys the collaboration process with so many talented individuals, bringing the magic of live theatre to all audiences and in this case from our living room to yours. She thanks each and every one of you for supporting the arts, during this time of uncertainty and distance. Enjoy the Show!

Lauren Gunderson (Playwright) has been one of the most produced playwrights in America since 2015 topping the list twice including 2019/20. She is a two-time winner of the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award for *I and You* and *The Book of Will*, the winner of the Lanford Wilson Award and the Otis Guernsey New Voices Award, a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and John Gassner Award for Playwriting, and a recipient of the Mellon Foundation's Residency with Marin Theatre Company. She studied Southern Literature and Drama at Emory University, and Dramatic Writing at NYU's Tisch School where she was a Reynolds Fellow in Social Entrepreneurship. She co-authored the Miss Bennet plays with Margot Melcon, and her play *The Half-Life of Marie Curie* is available on Audible.com. Her work is published at Playscripts (*I and You; Exit Pursued By A Bear; The Taming and Toil And Trouble*), Dramatists Play Service (*The Revolutionists; The Book of Will; Silent Sky; Bauer, Natural Shocks, The Wickhams and Miss Bennet*) and Samuel French (*Emilie*). Her picture book *Dr Wonderful: Blast Off to the Moon* is available from Two Lions/Amazon. She is currently developing musicals with Ari Afsar, Dave Stewart and Joss Stone. LaurenGunderson.com

*theatre KAPOW thanks the following people and organizations
for their support of Natural Shocks:*

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season 13: we can get through this

“Isolation offered its own form of companionship” ~ Jhumpa Lahiri

Over the past several months most of us have found ourselves in various states of isolation. theatre KAPOW was just days away from beginning rehearsals for the third show of our 12th season when the reality of the pandemic arrived in New Hampshire effectively closing down theatres all over the state. Like so many people across the globe, our activities moved from close and personal interactions to the decidedly distant and impersonal world of video conferencing.

As artists, creating in that time was very difficult. Perhaps out of desperation for some sense of normalcy, isolation truly did begin to offer its own form of companionship. It was in this state of isolation that we, like the tree limb deprived of the sun, began to reach out and grow in new ways to seek the nourishment of creative expression and connection.

We repeated over and over again, “We Can Get Through This.” That phrase was not just a way to reassure each other of our resilience, but a pledge to do what we must to thrive in the face of great adversity. And now we have come to this moment: Season 13. From isolation, three tKAPOW company members will reach out to communicate, connect, and understand.

Solo is safe and so the first series of season 13 will consist of three solo works that explore isolation, resilience, courage, and conviction. We love the energy of the in-person audience, but for this series, we will be engaging you in an intimate virtual space in real time. Bring these three stories into your homes and find companionship in isolation.

A Tempest Prayer

adapted by Peter Josephson
from *The Tempest*
by William Shakespeare

Friday, November 20, 7:30 pm

Saturday, November 21, 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Sunday, November 22, 2:00 pm

A solo retelling of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. To escape confinement on his island Prospero must forgive the brother who betrayed him, free the ones he used as slaves, and acknowledge his own darkness and weakness. It's a story for our times.

A Tempest Prayer is adapted and performed by
Peter Josephson.

Tickets for the live stream performance are \$10. For more information and tickets, visit www.tKAPOW.com.



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