



Minneapolis, MN

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THRESHOLD THEATER PRESENTS

WORLD PREMIERE DIGITAL PLAY READING SERIES

Twisted Deaths by Shannon TL Kearns

STREAMING July 1, 2021 through August 31, 2021

MINNEAPOLIS MN —Threshold Theater announces full casting and production details for the second play in its 2021 online new play reading series *Twisted Deaths* by Shannon TL Kearns, directed by Anthony Sisler-Neuman available for streaming starting July 1, 2021 until August 31, 2021

ABOUT THE PLAY

Ryan, a young transgender man, is planning his future with his wife Melissa, when he gets a call that turns everything upside down: a diagnosis of ovarian cancer that has spread to the surrounding organs because of his delay in going to the doctor. Ryan struggles to decide what course of treatment to take. His best friend Jason wants Ryan to come out, use his diagnosis to do something good in the world but Ryan wants to keep things private. Into his orbit come his doctor Jen who is secretly married to Heather, the hospital chaplain. The relationship that really turns their lives upside down is between Ryan and Pam, an older conservative woman also recently diagnosed with cancer, who become unlikely friends. This play explores what it means to have agency over your body and life, how to live well and die a good death, and how to connect with people in spite of differences.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Anthony Sisler-Neuman grew up as a theater kid in the Twin Cities, working at most of the local youth companies. He went on to study theater in high school and shifted gears to playwriting at Columbia College Chicago. Anthony has been directing and educating youth since 2012, while continuing to work as a theater professional. He is a former board member with 20% Theatre and Uprising Theatre Company and currently sits on the board of Queer Space Collective. His lifelong dream of having an educational theatre collective has finally come true and is the co-founder of Graceful Monsters Educational Theater Collective alongside his wife, which is truly the only way it could have happened. He is an avid believer that theater changes lives and continues to be inspired by the young artists he works with every day.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Shannon TL Kearns is a transgender man who believes in the transformative power of story. As an ordained priest, a playwright, a theologian, and a writer all of his work revolves around making meaning through story. He is the founder and Artistic Director of Uprising Theatre Company in Minneapolis, the co-founder of QueerTheology.com, and will soon publish with Eerdmaan's books.

Shannon is a recipient of the Playwrights' Center Jerome Fellowship in 20/21 and he was a Lambda Literary Fellow for 2019 and a Finnovation Fellow for 2019/2020. He is a sought after speaker on transgender issues and religion as well as a skilled facilitator of a variety of workshops.

His work with Brian G. Murphy at QueerTheology.com has reached more than a million people all over the world through videos, articles, and online courses and community.

Shannon's plays include Body+Blood, in a stand of dying trees, Line of Sight, The Resistance of My Skin, and Who Has Eyes To See. He's currently working on a television pilot.



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ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Twisted Deaths

By: Shannon TL Kearns

Directed by: Anthony Sisler-Neuman

Cast: Parker Haines (Ryan), Haley Sisler-Neuman (Melissa), Linda Sue Anderson (Pam), Victoria Pyan (Heather), Valencia Proctor (Jenn), and Nathan Searls (Jason)

TICKET INFORMATION

Twisted Deaths runs from July 1, 2021 to August 31, 2021. Streaming available through our “Threshold Theater Mpls” Youtube channel, on Facebook at “Threshold Theater” or www.thresholdtheatermpls.com. We kindly ask for a suggested donation of \$5. 75% of all donations raised will go to the artists listed above. The remaining 25% will go to Threshold Theater to help fund future readings and productions.

ABOUT THRESHOLD THEATER

Founded in 2019 we are committed to creating a place for the voices of the LGBTQ community to tell their story, no matter, age, race, religion or sex. Our history did not start in 1969. We have been around since the beginning of time, and we will be here until time’s end. We are every religion, every race, from every nation, and we live in every state. Our stories are the stories of humanity.

Threshold Theater’s mission to “produce fresh LGBTQ works” means we tell the stories of who we are, because only when we see each other do the walls of discrimination start to crumble. We cannot do this alone though, so we are calling on you to join us, the artists and audiences.

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