A Dream Play
by Caryl Churchill, adapted from August Strindberg
directed by George Keating

Run Time: 1 hour and 10 minutes

Presented as a radio play by BFA2 Acting and Theatre Arts majors, with visuals to start and end.
This performance, though recorded, was presented live. All sounds were recorded in real time
through the magic and inefficiency of a Zoom room, with the ingenuity of the following people
(in order of vocal appearance):

CAST

Jordan Kost (BFA 2)  ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, Intro to the Intro
Muhamad Faal (BFA 2)  WRITER, an artist with questions
Ryan Adams (BFA 2)  KRISTIN, an obsessive
Zoe Mazza (BFA 2)  AGNES, daughter of god, the gods, whatever
Paul Danowski (BFA 2)  GLAZIER, a working man
Nathan Hile (BFA 2)  OFFICER, a CEO who needs help
Sabrina Michaels (BFA 2)  FATHER, he's sorry
Bryant Hindsman (BFA 2)  MOTHER, she's dead
Ryan Adams (BFA 2)  LINA, the maid
Bryant Hindsman (BFA 2)  STAGE DOOR KEEPER, still making that star blanket
Ryan Adams (BFA 2)  BILLPOSTER, the posters can go, but not his net
Paul Danowski (BFA 2)  VICTORIA, she's pretty
Adam LeCompte (BFA 2)  DANCER/SINGER/PROMPTER, they're interested
Adam LeCompte (BFA 2)  POLICE, they're not
Danielle Ganz (BFA 2)  SOLICITOR, he's not good enough
Adam LeCompte (BFA 2)  QUARANTINE MASTER, a monster who keeps it hot
Sabrina Michaels & Bryant Hindsman  HE & SHE, unfortunately passing by
Adam LeCompte (BFA 2)  EDITH, she's ugly
Sabrina Michaels (BFA 2)  TEACHER & her BOYS, whoa
Bryant Hindsman & Ryan Adams (BFA 2)  HUSBAND & WIFE, 'til death do they part
Paul Danowski (BFA 2)  BLIND MAN, but he can hear
Paul Danowski (BFA 2)  THE SHIP'S CREW, no one can hear them
Bryant Hindsman (BFA 2)  
CHAIRMAN OF INQUIRY, an expert in charge

Adam LeCompte (BFA 2)  
BISHOP, an expert

Ryan Adams (BFA 2)  
SCIENTIST, an expert

Sabrina Michaels (BFA 2)  
LAWYER, an expert

Paul Danowski (BFA 2)  
PSYCHOANALYST, an expert

Felix Correa-Priest (BFA 2)  
UNHEARD, an influence

PRODUCTION STAFF

Paul Danowski (BFA 2)  
Acoustic Guitar

Adam LeCompte (BFA 2)  
electric guitar & synth

Ryan Adams (BFA 2)  
trumpet & synth

Muhamad Faal (BFA 2)  
mixing, engineering

“The author has in this dream play sought to imitate the disjointed yet seemingly logical shape of a dream. Everything can happen, everything is possible and probable. Time and space do not exist; the imagination spins, weaving new patterns on a flimsy basis of reality: a mixture of memories, experiences, free associations, absurdities and improvisations.

The characters split, double, multiply, evaporate, condense, dissolve and merge. But one consciousness rules them all: the dreamer’s; for him there are no secrets, no inconsistencies, no scruples and no laws. He does not judge or acquit, he merely relates; and, because a dream is usually painful rather than pleasant, a tone of melancholy and compassion for all living creatures permeates the rambling narrative.”

-August Strindberg, 1902
DIRECTOR’S NOTE

Don’t look for a linear experience, here. This play, on the surface, is existential. It asks, relentlessly, what’s the point? And for the record, I wholeheartedly believe that there is one.

“It’s not easy being alive,” says Agnes, the divine daughter in this play, after she’s spent some time on earth.

You might feel that way, too. Because let’s face it, it’s not easy. Especially at this surreal moment in our lives. (“Aren’t you the one who’s waiting outside the theatre?”)

This play doesn’t offer answers, in fact it asks a lot of questions. (“What’s behind the door?”) And as we endeavored to make meaning of this seemingly absurd text, we might have discovered that the making is the meaning. We diligently came together and did our duty as students and educators and artists and put our collective effort to the making. We were very serious, but we laughed a lot...and I mean, a lot. We found hope, irritation, tedium, absurdity, creativity, spirituality and inspiration.

And yet, almost every night after rehearsal, I would close my computer, put my head in my hands and doubt the whole prospect. (“To be free is a duty?”)

We played along, knowing that there was no prize and no winner. And yet, in making this radio play we did our duty. When we sheltered in place with the QUARANTINE MASTER, we made peace with him. After all, he just might be searching, too.

When listening, I offer that perhaps you let yourself dream with us. Turn up your hearing and let the play happen to you. And when you awaken, you can make your own meaning.

Let me know what you made of it! Really, let’s talk: gkeating@depaul.edu

What you think is waiting behind the door, might be right in front of you. The meaning is in the making.

-George Keating, Director