



Taffety Punk
Theatre Company

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Local punk ruins her life and reputation at pro-life slumber party
Taffety Punk lays bare the tragicomedy in the world of a pro-life teen

MOM BABY GOD

Written and Performed by **Madeline Joey Rose**

Directed by Company Member **Lise Bruneau**

Where: Capitol Hill Arts Workshop (545 7th Street SE, Washington, DC 20003)

When: March 3, at 8pm, March 5, 7, 8, at 7:30pm and March 9, 10 at 8:00pm.

Pay-what-you-can preview on March 2 at 8:00pm

Price: \$15. Tickets available at www.taffetypunk.com.

Grab a cupcake, put on a name tag, and prepare to be thrown into the world of the Christian right, where **sexual purity workshops** and anti-abortion rallies are sandwiched between karaoke sing-alongs, Christian EDM raves, and pro-life slumber parties. After years of immersive research and workshops, playwright and actor **Madeline Joey Rose** launches a fully revamped version of *MOM BABY GOD* — her controversial solo show that brings the audience face-to-face with American girl culture in the right-wing.

It's 2020 and the anti-abortion movement has a new sense of urgency. Teens 4 Life is live on Instagram from the Students for Life of America Conference, and right-wing teenagers are vying for popularity while preparing for political battle. Our tour guide is fourteen-year-old Destinee Grace Ramsey. Destinee ascends to prominence as the new It-Girl of the Christian right while struggling to contain her crush on John Paul, a flirtatious Christian boy with blossoming YouTube stardom and a purity ring. While Rose delivers authentic context—setting the play deep inside the right-wing's youth training ground—Destinee's struggle is the heart of the story. Rose describes this story as "coming of age and discovering your sexuality in a world that teaches you to fight those instincts and to find shame in them."

The play has been a labor of love for Rose, who has toured previous versions to sold-out houses, while enduring a national right-wing smear campaign. Teaming up with Taffety Punk to revise and refine her script, Rose says, "I've always seen *MOM BABY GOD* as a form of **punk theatre**. It's immersive and unapologetic and defies easy categorization. Taffety Punk's work has always resonated with me as bold and risk-embracing and imaginative."

Director **Lise Bruneau**, company member and **co-founder** of Taffety Punk, says, "Madeline has very intelligently taken a subject with a great deal of controversy around it and delivers, often verbatim, content that pro-lifers use. Comment-free. The audience is able to come to their own conclusions about what that might mean or what impact that could have."

Asked what has changed in the pro-life movement since she began this work five years ago, Rose half-jokes that Justin Bieber has changed, which has made necessary changes in the script—Destinee is a Belieber. She also describes a surprising surge in the movement for establishing social relevance. "Especially in the past few years, the pro-life involvement in social media has expanded dramatically. The ways they adopt and manipulate left-wing rhetoric also strikes me. The whole spin recently has been about how they, the anti-abortion movement, is the true feminist movement. There was even a contingent of teenage boys at the March for Life this year wearing pink hats like at the Women's March...but with crosses on the sides of the hats."

For Bruneau, the play is important on the most fundamental level of compassion. She says, "The right to choose is one of the most complex issues that we face as a country and one where people are passionate on both sides. I feel that all of us could use a great deal more information about what people are hearing on both sides."

Madeline Joey Rose is a rising star in Washington DC, and Taffety Punk was drawn to work with her after encountering her other projects in theatre and music. She is an actor who arrived in town already embracing and practicing Taffety Punk's multi-discipline aesthetic. Bruneau speaks highly of her after a rehearsal: "Having one woman play a multitude of characters that are often talking to each other, we are tasked with making sure the story is clear; and we are able to do that in very surprising ways due to Madeline's incredible facility as an actor."

Bruneau warns Taffety Punk's largely left-wing fans, "The audience may find themselves agreeing with many of the propositions that the movement puts forward."

MOM BABY GOD occupies a **limited run** at the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop (545 7th Street SE, Washington, DC 20003). There will be a single pay-what-you-can performance on March 2 at 8:00pm. The show opens on March 3, at 8pm and runs for another five performances through March 10; March 5, 7, 8, at 7:30pm and March 9, 10 at 8:00pm. Tickets are available for \$15 at www.taffetypunk.com or 1-800-838-3006.

Set and props by Crista Noel Smith. Lights by Chris Curtis. Costumes by Tessa Lew. Music and sound by Kenny Neal.

For hi-res photos, go to: <http://www.taffetypunk.com/press>

Taffety Punk Theatre Company's mission is to sustain a dynamic ensemble of actors, dancers and musicians who ignite a public passion for theatre by making the classical and the contemporary exciting, meaningful, and affordable. The company produces plays, dance concerts, and music — often incorporating all three elements into their work. The company was recently nominated for Helen Hayes Awards in choreography for 2016's productions of *Phaeton* and *An Iliad*. Past awards include the very first John Aniello Award for Outstanding Emerging Theatre Company at the 2008 Helen Hayes Awards. The company was also a 2010 finalist for the D.C. Mayor's Arts Award for Innovation in the Arts. The company's music catalogue can be found at taffetypunk.bandcamp.com. Find out more about Taffety Punk at www.taffetypunk.com.

Madeline Joey Rose (Performer/Playwright) is a DC-based actor, writer, and musician. She is an Associate Artist at Theater J where she was recently seen in *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* and can be seen this spring in the world premiere of *Trayf*. Other recent D.C.-area credits include *The Heidi Chronicles* (Rep Stage), *Three Sisters* and *No Sisters* (Studio Theatre), *Hooded, Or Being Black for Dummies* (Mosaic Theater Company), *TAME*. (WSC Avant Bard), as well as both Henry VI Bootlegs with Taffety Punk. Madeline holds a B.A. in Theatre, American Studies and Women/Gender/Sexuality Studies from Hampshire College, where she first developed an early version of *MOM BABY GOD*. *MOM BABY GOD* has since toured nationally from New York to Nebraska and received a developmental co-production last season at Forum Theatre and Single Carrot Theatre. She is the drummer for the DC band Ultra Beauty. www.madelinejoeyrose.com

Lise Bruneau (Director) has been a professional actor and director for over 25 years, having arrived in DC via St. Louis, the Bay Area, London, and NYC. A founding member of the Taffety Punks, Lise has helmed their Riot Grrrl productions of *The Tempest*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Julius Caesar*, *Measure for Measure* and *Romeo and Juliet*; the Bootleg Shakespeares: *Loves Labours Lost*, *Pericles*, *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *Cymbeline* and *Henry the VIII*; thrilling plays *Oxygen* and *Bloody Poetry*; World Premieres of *Inheritance Canyon*, *Owl Moon*, *Let X*, and *The Devil in his Own Words*; and for the Arena Stage writer's festivals staged readings of *Toys in the Attic* and *Tiny Alice*. Regional directing credits include *4000 Miles* at Clarence Brown Theatre, *Savage in Limbo* for MetroStage, and *Hamlet* for the Nebraska Shakespeare Festival among others. As an actor, Lise has appeared at the Roundabout on Broadway in *The Cherry Orchard*. Regional theatre credits include Arena Stage: *Watch on the Rhine*, *Legacy of Light*; Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park: *The Revolutionists*; Denver Center Theatre Co: *Heartbreak House*; ACT San Francisco: *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Angels in America*; Cleveland Playhouse, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Game's Afoot*; Chicago Shakespeare Theatre: *Merry Wives of Windsor*; Shakespeare Theatre Co: *The Winter's Tale*, *Othello*, *Ion*, *Coriolanus*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Hamlet*. Round House Theatre: *This*, *Alice*, *The Book Club Play*, *Asher Lev*; Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis: *Richard III*; Alabama Shakespeare Festival: Margaret of Anjou in *Wars of the Roses*; Center Stage: *Murder of Isaac*, *Mary Stuart*, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, *Blithe Spirit*; Old Globe: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Misalliance*; Theater J: *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Helen Hayes Nomination), *Broken Glass*; Magic Theatre: *Triptych* (World Premiere); Triad Stage: *Moon for the Misbegotten*; Seattle Rep: *Pygmalion*, *An Ideal Husband*; Great Lakes Theater: *The Imaginary Invalid*, *The Winter's Tale*; Indiana Rep: *Private Lives*; Wilma Theatre: *Patience*; Arizona Theatre Co: *As You Like It*; Oregon Shakespeare Festival: *Love's Labour's Lost*; Berkeley Rep: *Triumph of Love*, *Pentecost*, *Lady from the Sea*; San Jose Rep: *The Seagull*; Shakespeare Santa Cruz: *Kean*, *Othello*, *Much Ado About Nothing*; A Traveling Jewish Theatre: *Dybbuk*. Lise trained at RADA, and is proud to be a Taffety Punk.

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