



# Taffety Punk Theatre Company

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## **Angry Women have totally had it with you and your \$#!£!**

*Taffety Punk women fight for a genuine life with Pramkicker*

### **Pramkicker**

by **Sadie Hasler**

Directed by **Linda Lombardi**

Starring company members **Tonya Beckman** and **Esther Williamson**

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

**When:** September 14 - 29, 2018, Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8:00 PM. Saturday matinees at 3:00 PM. Pay-what-you-can previews on September 12 and 13 at 7:30 PM. Additional matinee September 27th at 12:30pm

**Price:** \$15. Tickets available at [www.taffetypunk.com](http://www.taffetypunk.com).

What is a “real woman”?

In its production of *Pramkicker*, Taffety Punk Theatre Company pushes back hard against the constant barrage of contradictory ideas of what it is to be a “real woman”. It is the story of two sisters fighting to live their own genuine lives—despite what the patriarchy tells them the need to be.

“*Pramkicker* contends with a lot of the issues we are dealing with today: a woman’s right to choose, bodily autonomy, and a patriarchal society wanting to control women,” Director **Linda Lombardi** says. “As women, we’re not supposed to be angry. If we get angry, we’re supposed to apologize. But Jude and Susie get to be angry. They get to be unapologetically angry—and they have good reason to be.”

Company members **Esther Williamson** and **Tonya Beckman** star in this two-hander. Williamson’s Jude is sent to anger management, having kicked the eponymous pram down a flight of stairs, and her sister Susie (Beckman) tags along, to protect the rest of the class from Jude’s rage. Jude is angry at the world for judging her because she chooses to be child-free.

**Sadie Hasler’s** *Pramkicker* follows the play’s successful runs at both Brighton Fringe Festival and Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2015, and a tour of the United Kingdom in 2016. *The Stage* said of the Edinburgh run, “Hasler’s desperately funny play takes a potshot at a few sacred cows as the author explores what it means to be a modern woman...satisfying and emotionally resonant.”

Lombardi says, “We live in a world that deems a woman who does not have children to be less than a complete woman; as if motherhood is our only purpose. We’re considered something of a freak of nature. There’s an assumption that there’s something bodily wrong with us, or that we are mentally or emotionally unstable. There’s no gray area. *Pramkicker* tackles the question of whether or not a woman has to have a child, and puts the choice squarely in each individual woman’s hands. It’s subversive in so many ways.”

Actor Esther Williamson says, "It's funny and unpretentious, and the writing is excellent. There are no words wasted in this script. In the tradition of [previous Taffety Punk productions] *Rape of Lucrece* and *suicide.chat.room*, this play examines a very human struggle from an unexpected angle."

"My favorite thing about this script is how things sneak up on you," Tonya Beckman adds. "The characters will be joking, laughing, then all of a sudden one of them will make a statement that's more vulnerable than perhaps they intended, and it leads to something very real. And the audience gets to go on that ride, too. I think it's a perfect Taffety Punk show because—aside from it being unapologetically theatrical—it's unflinching. It never shies away from saying what it's trying to say."

The play takes on the world's constant assault on women and presents women as survivors. Williamson says, "I've been thinking a lot about the way that this play deals with sexual assault. It's something that happened in Jude's life, and it has lasting repercussions, but it doesn't destroy her. So many stories that deal with sexual assault show us a woman who is devastated and deeply traumatized. That's not the story we're telling here."

*Pramkicker* opens at the **Capitol Hill Arts Workshop** on Friday, September 14 and runs through Saturday, September 29 on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8:00 PM, with 3:00 PM matinee performances on Saturday and a special weekday matinee on September 27 at 12:30 PM. There will be two pay-what-you-can preview performances on Wednesday, September 12 and Thursday, September 13 at 7:30 PM.

Starring Tonya Beckman and Esther Williamson. Directed by Linda Lombardi. Choreographed by Kelly King. Costume design by Heather Jackson. Lighting design by Chris Curtis. Set design by Kate Fleming. Sound design by Kenny Neal. Fight choreography by Lorraine Ressegger.

Taffety Punk Theatre Company is the resident company at Capitol Hill Arts Workshop (545 7th Street SE, Washington, DC 20003 - two blocks from Metro's Orange/Blue Line stop at Eastern Market.

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

**Taffety Punk Theatre Company** won the 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. Taffety Punk's mission is to establish 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.

**Sadie Hasler** (Playwright) is a multi award-winning columnist, playwright, and actor. She is co-Artistic Director and playwright of the theatre company Old Trunk. She has represented the arts at the House of Commons, appeared in the *Sunday Times Magazine* as a company "making waves", and in *The Observer* as a pick of the Edinburgh Fringe 2015. *Pramkicker* premiered at the Marlborough Theatre, Brighton in May 2015, went on to Latitude Festival, a month's run at Assembly for the Edinburgh Fringe, had a sold out run at the Clifftown Theatre, Southend, and was handpicked to be part of the King's Head Theatre's 45 Year Anniversary celebration of new writing. Other plays include *Blazed*, which was staged at Pulse Festival 2015, *The Secret Wives of Andy Williams* and *The Bastard Children of Remington Steele*, both of which opened at Camden People's Theatre in 2013, 2012 respectively, then alternated to critical-acclaim at the Underbelly Edinburgh 2014 with the support of Arts Council England. Sadie has written and performed extensively in television, radio, and on the international comedy circuit. She has worked with Harry Hill, Al Murray, Jenny Eclair, and many others. Most recent credits include series 4 through 7 of *Russell Howard's Good News*, *Rebecca Front's Little Cracker*, and BBC's *Walk On The Wild Side*. Her one-woman character comedy show *Lady Bones* premiered at Melbourne Comedy Festival in 2010, went on to a month's run at the Pleasance Edinburgh, popped up in frozen Oslo, toured the UK twice, and was reprised for Latitude Festival 2014. Sadie was Columnist of the Year for the Society of Editors Regional Press Awards in 2014 and is currently EDF Media Awards' Columnist of the Year. She writes weekly for *The Echo* and *The Gazette*, was commissioned to write a piece on suicide and grief for *The Lancet*, and is a core

contributor and collective member for new alternative women's magazine *Standard Issue*. She is currently editing her first novel.

**Linda Lombardi** (Director) Select directing credits: *Perfect Arrangement* (world premiere, Source Festival); *Domestic Animals* (Capitol Fringe); *Preggers, or Parenthood for Virgins* (Catholic University of America); *Henry IV, Part I*; *Henry IV, Part II*; *Henry V* (GreenStage); *The White Devil* (Theater Schmeater); *Ajax* (Open Circle Theatre). As an assistant director and dramaturg, Linda has worked with Taffety Punk Theatre Company, Folger Theater, Mosaic Theater Company, Studio Theatre, Longacre Lea, Forum Theatre, and Factory 449. A member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation's 2017-18 Observership class, Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas, and the Artistic Council for the Eugene O'Neil Theater Center, Linda is also a nominator for The Kilroy List and a script reader for Great Plains Theatre Conference.

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