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24 September 2022

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For Immediate Release:

The Black Death Returns to Plague You

And Taffety Punk returns to the stage with this gruesomely enchanting medieval lesbian romantic tragicomedy

Our Black Death,
Plagues, Turnips, and Other Romantic Gestures
by Lindsay Carpenter

Directed by Artistic Director Marcus Kyd

Where: Capitol Hill Arts Workshop (545 7th Street SE, Washington, DC 20003)
When: Sep 23 - Oct 8, 2022
Price: \$15. Tickets available at www.taffetypunk.com.

Taffety Punk returns to present their first live play since the pandemic began in 2020. Lindsay Carpenter's *Our Black Death: Plagues, Turnips, and Other Romantic Gestures* is a dark comedy about two peasants in mid-1300s England who explore their newfound power and take a chance on love as everyone around them dies.

Director **Marcus Kyd** brings this fast-moving play to heart-throbbing life in the Black Box theatre at the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop. Staged with the audience on either side of the action, the space becomes all settings in swift succession with the deft movements of light scenery which swirl into different configurations. Fellow company members Tonya Beckman and Esther Williamson join guest artists Connor Padilla, Gregory Scott Stuart, and Dawn Thomas Reidy in a high-stakes battle for love during the mother of all pandemics.

In this anachronistic look at mid-1300s England two women become liberated by the plague. All Frol (Esther Williamson) wants is to live with Bit (Dawn Thomas Reidy), the love of her life, before they die from the plague. Frol has an edge that cannot be blunted, and will risk anything to make this work. Bit, on the other hand, is convinced that their love will save them both. As their new lives begin, Bit becomes fascinated by a new acquaintance, the Nobleman (Connor Padilla). The Nobleman is terrified and has locked himself in a room in his castle. Bit spends more and more time with him until jealousy takes the better of Frol. Meanwhile, their friend, the Lovesick Lady played by Tonya Beckman, is determined to try spell after spell to make the Man (Gregory Scott Stuart) love her. *Our Black Death* explores the line between passion and monstrous obsession. When the world as we know it is truly collapsing, how do we categorize lovers and villains?

Our Black Death: Plagues, Turnips, and Other Romantic Gestures opens at the **Capitol Hill Arts Workshop** (545 7th Street SE, Washington, DC 20003 – two blocks from Metro's Orange/Blue Line stop at Eastern Market) on Saturday, Sep 24 and runs through Saturday, Oct 8 on Wednesday through Saturday nights at 7:30pm. There is one half-price preview on Sep 23. There is an additional Monday night (industry night) performance on Sep 26, and there is one matinee on Saturday, Oct 8 at 2:30pm. The only strange exception to this schedule is that there will be now show on Oct 1.

This show runs 90 minutes without an intermission.

Featuring company members Tonya Beckman (Lovesick Lady) and Esther Williamson (Frol) with Connor Padilla (Nobleman), Gregory Scott Stuart (Man), and Dawn Thomas Reidy (Bit). *Our Black Death* is directed by Taffety Punk Artistic Director Marcus Kyd. Lights designed by Chris Curtis. Costumes designed by Jen Gillette working closely with Associate Costume Designer Elizabeth Morton. Fight and Intimacy Direction by Lorraine Ressegger. Choreography by Kelly King. Sound designed by

Marcus Kyd, featuring the music of Garland of Hours. ext coach: Stage Manager: Katie Buchwell. Assistant Stage Manager: Caroline Johnson.

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: www.taffetypunk.com/press

Taffety Punk Theatre Company is the resident company at Capitol Hill Arts Workshop. The company won the very first John Aniello Award for Outstanding Emerging Theatre Company at the Helen Hayes Awards. More recently, the company received two Helen Hayes nominations for original choreography in both *Phaeton* and *An Iliad*. Taffety Punk's mission is to maintain 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.

Lindsay Carpenter (Playwright) is a writer and director based in NYC and Boston. She is a Princess Grace Award semi-finalist, Goldberg Prize finalist, Bay Area Playwrights Festival semi-finalist, and Kennedy Center ACTF National Undergraduate Playwriting Award winner. Her work has been produced and developed across the country, including the Kennedy Center's MFA Workshop, Synchronicity Theatre, The Barrow Group, Women's Theatre Festival, Fresh Ink Theatre, Theatre Masters, Tiny Theatre, and FAU Theatre Labs. Her play *Our Black Death* was first produced in 2022 at Unicorn Theatre. She is a co-founder of Ghost Ship Murder Mysteries, which combines interactive theatre with role playing games. She was a staff writer on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's (CBC) web series *Amours d'occasion* (IFP 2019 Web Drama Series winner, Drama LA Film Awards: 2020 Best Web Series & Honorable Mention, Prix Numix 2020 Webseries Fiction finalist, and CANNESERIES Short Form Competition 2020 Nominee). Her short play *The Game* was published in Samuel French/Concord Theatrical's "Theatre Masters Take Ten 2020 Anthology." She graduated from NYU Tisch's Dramatic Writing MFA Program in May 2020.

Marcus Kyd (Director) is co-founder and artistic director of Taffety Punk Theatre Company where he has directed many plays and dance-theatre productions including *suicide.chat.room*, *The Fragments of Sappho*, *Phaeton*, *The Rape of Lucrece*, *Enter Ophelia*, *distracted*, and numerous plays for the Bootleg Shakespeare series. His acting credits include shows at Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Folger Theatre, Arena Stage, Theater J, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Round House Theatre, Center Stage, Olney Theatre Center, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, The Baltimore Symphony, Happenstance Theater, Anti-Social Music/WPAS, Nebraska Shakespeare Festival, and many more. For much of the 90s and early 00s he played guitar and sang for The Most Secret Method.

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