

Cal State LA MFA in Television, Film & Theatre

Acting • Content Creation • Writing

October 28th, 29th, and 30th
at 7:30 PM, PST
November 1st at 3:00 PM, PST

Another F-Word

Written by Matt Stepan
October 28-30 & November 1, 2020

Cast

Matt.....Matt Stepan
Regan.....Mignon DeLarre
Violet.....Gigi Rios
Shadow (Body).....Jeremy Leochner

Creative Team

Director.....Adam Ferguson
Stage Manager.....Tom Chou
Writer..... Matt Stepan
Editor.....Perri Keyes
Graphic Designer.....Trisha Mellon

The Production Would Like to Thank:

Cal State LA, The College of Arts & Letters, The MFA in Television, Film and Theatre, The Department of Theatre & Dance, The Department of Television, Film, and Media, Dean Linda Essig, Prof. Tanya Kane-Parry, Prof. Randee Trabitz, Prof. Sylke Rene Meyer, Prof. Meredith Greenburg, Bruce Zwinge, Jonas Oppenheim, Jaleese Ramos, and The Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

Another F-Word is Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Fine Arts in Television, Film. And Theatre/Acting Option

Author's Note

Three years ago, if you had told me I was going to write and perform a show about obesity as my MFA culminating project…I probably wouldn't have believed you. As a nearly life-long obese person my body has always been the elephant in the room that I was too afraid to face. For many reasons, some which you'll see in our show, obese people often have complex relationships with their bodies and society. Mine has too often been one of fear and shame. A life lived in the liminal space between being both too much and not enough.

So, three years ago the idea that someone who looked like me could even get into graduate school and have an MFA project to complete seemed a little bit like fantasy. Three years ago, the idea of *choosing* to talk about my greatest source of personal fear and shame through my work as an artist would have seemed terrifying. Three years ago, I might have seen this script as destroying me by pulling away my façade to expose the truth. But three years ago, I would have been wrong. In exposing truth and fully embracing one's self, even in one's weakness, one may find power.

This is acting.

I wrote this script, not only to begin to understand my own relationship with my body and challenge audiences to reexamine their bias against overweight people, but also to create representation for other overweight and obese people through performance. Our stories matter. We matter. And we are enough. On my first day of graduate school orientation one of my now-culminating project committee members told my cohort that to name what one is afraid of is to have power over it, and perhaps to fear it a bit less. So, with this script I name my body, my obesity, and my fatness. And through this performance I take a step, from fat toward free.

Matt Stepan

About the Artists

Tom Chou (Stage Manager) is happy to be part of this production. This is his first time stage-managing on a completely new platform. He wants to thank the cast and crew for this opportunity. It is quite a journey for him to understand beyond just the technical aspect of this show. Please enjoy, and thank you. IMDB.me/TomChou | IG @realtomchou

Mignon DeLarre (Regan) is a theatre major at Cal State LA. Audiences may remember her as Landlady in *Funnyhouse of a Negro.* Later this semester she will be appearing in *Right Now,* a devised theatrical event. In her spare time Mignon enjoys reading horror fiction, and then reenacting her favorite books under the guise of "performance art". She was definitely NOT involved in any recent grave robbing's, knows NOTHING about a town of missing people in Maine, and is in NO WAY responsible for any Elder Things recently sighted in Silver Lake. Please stop asking.

Adam Ferguson (Director) is a recent graduate of the MFA for Television, Film, and Theater/Acting Option at Cal State LA. While a student he appeared on campus as Comendador Gomez in *Fuente Ovejuna* and Prior Walter in *Angels in America*. For three years Adam toured internationally (Asia, Europe, and South America) in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* directed by Academy Award winner Tim Robbins. He made his Off-Broadway debut in the World Premiere of *Boys Just Wanna Have Fun*. Los Angeles credits include *The Altruists* (winner of StageSceneLA Best Actor in a Comedy), *Picasso at the Lapine Agile*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. Adam also wrote and starred in the webseries *30 is Still 30* which is available to watch on YouTube. As a director, he has worked on *Sudden Death Viewpoints, The Exonerated*, and staged readings of *Three Tall Women, The Skin of Our Teeth*, and *Night Mother*. He was a company member at The Actors' Gang for four years and is a proud member of Actors' Equity.

Perri Alexis Keyes (Editor) was born on Friday the thirteenth in a small Michigan town and is now pursuing an MFA in Television, Film and Theatre Production from Cal State LA. Between those two events, she had a nice childhood, studied film editing in Minneapolis, earned a bachelor's degree in American Studies and Ethnicity from USC, and once drew what was generally regarded as a "pretty good cat" at the age of three during a round of Pictionary. She is excited to be involved in *Another F-Word* as the video editor.

Jeremy Leochner (Shadow Body) is a third-year student in the MFA Acting Cohort in the Television, Film and Theatre program. Prior to attending Cal State LA, he obtained his Bachelors in Theatre Arts from Cal State Fullerton. Since coming to Cal State LA, he has appeared as Kreon in *Antigone* and Chuck in *She Kills Monsters*. Prior to the pandemic, Jeremy was set to appear as Fogg in *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. Most recently, Jeremy appeared as Christopher in *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* in partial fulfillment of his MFA Culminating Project. As an artist, Jeremy is driven by the desire to find the truth of what people feel and want. As an Autistic individual, he is driven to counter act the stereotypes of people on the spectrum as being unable to express or understand emotion. He is a proud advocate of Autism Acceptance and tries to bring the unique perspective of people on the spectrum into his work.

Trisha Mellon (Graphic Designer) studied at the Art Institute of Dallas where she graduated with a BFA in Media Arts & Animation, and works as an Art Generalist for Explosm. Trisha can be heard performing various voice-over roles in the Cyanide & Happiness animated shorts on YouTube and *The Cyanide &*

Happiness Show on VRV. Some of Trisha's theatre credits have included Cherie in *Bus Stop*, Ginevra Boynton in *Appointment With Death*, and St. Cecilia in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

Gigi Rios (Violet) is a 23-year-old Theatre Arts student and she feels incredibly honored to be a part of this production. This will be her first and final time performing in the Fall Semester. As the prepares for graduation, and thanks to the enlightening moments she shares with her cast and crew, Gigi now carries self-love and acceptance within herself along with her driven passion for sing, dance, and act.

Matt Stepan (Writer/Matt/Shadow Voice) is a third-year candidate for the MFA in Television, Film and Theatre/Acting Option at Cal State LA. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre from Sam Houston State University. Matt has appeared and directed on many stages in his home state of Texas, as well as in several Cal State LA productions including: *Dreaming of Our Future, Sudden Death Viewpoints, The Minutes, She Kills Monsters* (Steve), and *Strange Loops.* As an obese artist, Matt hopes to use his work to contribute to the body positivity revolution- inspiring people of all body types and backgrounds to cast themselves in the leading role of their own lives, living out dreams even more unique, surprising, and beautiful than they ever dared imagine. Matt believes that all people deserve happiness and that everybody, and every *body*, should be represented in media. *Another F-Word* is presented in partial fulfillment of his MFA culminating project. Visit him online: http://www.actormattstepan.com or @actormattstepan on IG/Twitter/Facebook.

Please stay for the post-show talk back!

Did you love the show? Did you hate it? Were you surprised by it?

Look for the link to Zoom in the comments after the show. Share your feedback and be a part of the new work development process!

Responses may also be anonymously used and published by Matt Stepan in writing his culminating project report.

Check out these upcoming events:

Reservation and streaming link https://www.calstatela.edu/al/theatre-and-dance/fall-2020-theatre-production

***The War of the Worlds*.....Nov 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, & 21 @ 7pm**

***Under the Mask*.....Nov 19**

***Right Now, a Devised Theatre project*.....Dec 8 @ 7pm, 9-11 @ 4pm & 7pm**