



OUR DIGITAL STORIES PRESENTS

PHYSICAL TOUCH
IS NOT MY LOVE
LANGUAGE AND
ASMR IS
INHERENTLY
SEXUAL

A New Play by Claire Marieb
Directed by Cara Phipps

JUNE 14, 2021 • 7 PM • LIVESTREAM

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PHYSICAL TOUCH IS NOT MY LOVE LANGUAGE AND ASMR IS INHERENTLY SEXUAL

by **Claire Marieb**

directed by **Cara Phipps**, associated directed by **Tessa Corrie**



Claire Marieb (Writer) (she/her) is a theatre artist based out of NYC. She is an alumnus of Sarah Lawrence College and the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center where she received a staged reading for her musical *Looking at the World Through Glass Eyes*. Her directing credits include, *Dance Nation* by Clare Barron (DownstageTC 2020), *Top Girls* by Caryl Churchill (SLC 2019) and a workshop of "Things I Never Told the Stars" by Isabella Waldron at Portland Actors Conservatory. She is so excited to share this piece and hopes that you enjoy it even half as much as she enjoyed writing it.



Cara Phipps (Director) is a theatre maker based in Minneapolis. Her work in the Twin Cities includes credits with the Guthrie Theater, the Jungle Theater, The Playwrights' Center, and the University of Minnesota Guthrie/BFA program. Prior to arriving in Minnesota, she earned her Master of Fine Arts in Directing from the University of Texas at Austin where she directed several readings, workshops, and productions including *Lost Girl* by Kimberly Belflower, *Girls in Cars Underwater* by Tegan McLeod, and *The Wild Party* by Michael John LaChiusa and George C. Wolfe which garnered seven Austin Critics' Table Award nominations. She returned to Actors Theatre of Louisville during her time in

Austin to direct pieces in The Tens for the Professional Training Company. Prior to graduate school, she was an intern at Actors Theatre of Louisville under the mentorship of Les Waters and Meredith McDonough where she directed AI Company projects and assisted on shows in the 50th Anniversary season and the Humana Festival of New American Plays. Cara is a native of California where she has developed work with several companies including TheatreWorks, City Lights Theatre Company, Dragon Productions Theatre Company, The '06 Ensemble, and Transient Theater where she directed their inaugural production, *The Egg Play*, and received a FringeNYC Overall Excellence in Directing award. She earned her BA in Drama from the University of Portland (OR) where she discovered her vocation directing a production of *Stop Kiss*. And if you're ever looking to win her over, nacho cheese Doritos and conversations about Olivia Colman go a long way.



Tessa Corrie (Associate Director) is a Queer and Latinx Theatre Director based in the Bay Area. Her work is grounded in creating space for marginalized and underrepresented communities and narratives. She is a company member and ambassador at Playground SF. Her credits include work at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Shotgun Players, Center REpertory Company, Hillbarn Theatre, Pear Theatre, Dragon Theatre, Fuse Theatre, TheatreFirst, PianoFight, AmiosWest, and Poltergeist Theatre Projects.

THE CAST

Tasi Alabastro (see bio under THE ODS ENSEMBLE)



Jonathan Amores is thrilled to be a part of Our Digital Stories! Favorite credits include *The Drunken City* and *Perishable, Keep Refrigerated* (Renegade Theatre Experiment) and *Brendan's Damn Good Day* (The 06 Ensemble). Jonathan holds a BA in Theater and Performance Studies from UC Berkeley and is currently on the digital marketing teams of BroadwaySF and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.



Jake Arky (he/him) is an actor, writer, and producer currently serving as the Program Manager for The Unusual Suspects Theatre Co. after five years as the Associate Director of Education-Playwriting for TheatreWorks | Silicon Valley. Jake co-founded So Say We All: a non-profits arts production and education organization specializing in the literary and storytelling arts. He regularly performs stories on stage with The Moth and RISK! He received his B.F.A. in dramatic writing from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.



Michael Champlin is a Bay Area actor and director who was most recently seen virtually in *Thom Pain (based on nothing)* at Los Altos Stage Company and live on stage in *A Doll's House Pt. 2* at Palo Alto Players. Michael serves on the Board of Directors for The Pear Theatre and spends his days working for PayPal -still from home. Michael sends much love to both boys and to Katie, for somehow managing to stay relatively sane with me during this challenging time.



Megan Chenot (she/her) is a professional musician living in Half Moon Bay. This Fall she will begin working toward her MFA in Playwriting at San Francisco State University. Until then she plans to spend all day playing with her new puppy, Bozwell.

April Culver (see bio under THE ODS ENSEMBLE)



Sam DiSalvo (she/her) is an LA-based writer, actor & comedian. She's performed all over the country and been featured in SF Sketchfest & VAMP. Her story "The Adventures of Mary-Ashley Olsen" was recently made into a short film and won 2nd place at the 2019 Her Film Challenge in San Diego. She co-hosts The Hold Up Podcast that asks if the things we were obsessed with as kids are still worth loving. Follow her on Twitter [@sam_disalvo](#).



Allison Gamlen is an actor, director, dancer, and arts educator who has performed with numerous companies along the California coast, including Actors Ensemble of Berkeley, SF Shakespeare, Studio ACT, South Coast Repertory, Pandora Productions, Flux Theatre, and Brown Bag Theatre.



Brittany Grove (she/her) holds her BFA in Musical Theatre from Messiah University and has had the privilege to study in the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's NTI program and the Stella Adler Studio of Acting's Summer Conservatory. Past credits include *The Marvelous Wonderettes* (Betty Jean), *She Stoops to Conquer* (Kate Hardcastle), and *Is He Dead* (Marie Leroux). IG: [@thebrittanysaurus](#) TT: [@brittanyscorner](#)



Katherine Hamilton (she/her) is a Bay Area actor and director, as well as the FutureWorks Fellow at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley. She has recently directed for Monday Night Playground SF, UCSB LaunchPad's Zoom Fest, and has assistant directed at Indiana Repertory Theatre, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, and Hillbarn Theatre. She was most recently seen on the physical stage as Emmy in Emmy in *A Doll's House Part 2* (Palo Alto Players). Proud UCSB graduate.



Matthew Hanjoong (he/him) is a Sacramento State University graduate and a former Capital Stage Acting Apprentice. Most recently, he was virtually seen in Playground SF's Best of Playground Festival performing in *The Art of the Suffrage* and in Capital Stage's virtual performance of *The Great Leap* by Lauren Yee. Matthew has also studied at UCLA with Academy Award Winner Tim Robbins and The Actor's Gang.



Zaya Kolia (he/him) is a Bay Area native. He has just received his Bachelor in Fine Arts in Acting from the Academy of Art University where his credits include Flan in *Six Degrees of Separation*, Joshua and Martin in *Cloud Nine*, Barnett in *Crimes of the Heart*, Aldolpho in *The Drowsy Chaperone* and Kevin Rosario in *In the Heights*. Other credits include Frank Jr. in *Saturday Night Fever* at Broadway by the Bay, *The Wizard of Oz* at Berkeley Playhouse, Khadim in *The North Pool* at Bread & Butter, The Captain in *Anything Goes* at Hillbarn Theatre, Ludovic and Augenti in *Passion*, and Harry and Martin in *Cloud Nine* both at The Custom Made Theatre Company. Most recently you might've seen him at the Potrero Stage as Azad in *On the Periphery* with Golden Thread and Crowded Fire.



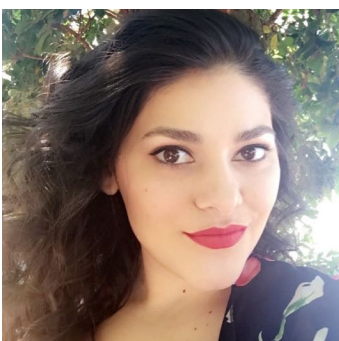
All LOVE and THANKS to da ODS crew!!! **Chuck Lacson** is a resident artist and board member at Bindlestiff Studio (SF) and is thrilled to be in his second ODS adventure! He is very thankful that ODS continues to keep storytelling alive in this wild Zoom-tastic world. When not in back-to-back online meetings, he enjoys every chance he can get to support or participate in Bay Area theater, especially with his wife Julie who inspires him every day. Never Give Up!



Kelsey Lappegaard (she/her) is a Minnesota born / NYC based actor, writer, and voice over artist. She is currently pursuing a Masters in Applied Theatre at CUNY SPS and spends her free time reading vampiric folklore. Please contact her on Instagram ([@kelker](#)) for book recommendations or playlist links.



Carina Lastimosa (she/her) is a San Francisco Bay Area native, currently residing in Chicago; where she was in the world premieres of *Poison (The Plagiarists)* by Dusty Wilson and *W.o.W.* by Kiely Sugayan. Selected SF/Bay Area theatre credits include: *Sisters Matsumoto* (Center REPeratory Company), *A Dreamplay* (Cutting Ball Theater), *Dogeaters* (Magic Theatre), *The Day The Crayons Quit* (Bay Area Children's Theatre), *A Kind of Sad Love Story* (Bindlestiff Studio) and as a performer/educator for Kaiser's Educational Theatre. Carina is a recipient of the Theatre Bay Area TITAN Award and a graduate of Indiana University. Carina is represented by Lily's Talent Agency. www.carinalastimosa.com



Sara Luna (she/her) is excited to be participating in Our Digital Short Stories. Luna is a San Francisco Bay Area actress who has performed in Douglas Morrison Theatre's *The Three Musketeers*; Silicon Valley Shakespeare's *The Hood of Sherwood*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Tartuffe*, *12th Night*, and *The Imaginary Invalid*. Luna has also performed with Dragon Productions Theatre and was an ensemble member with the Renegade Theatre Ensemble. She enjoys involvement with new play developments and readings from local playwrights. Thanks to all for your ongoing support of the arts, you can find Luna on instagram [@johnny.onenote](#) if you enjoy all things plants.



Luke Myers (he/him) is a grad of PCPA Pacific Conservatory Theatre and the UMN/Guthrie BFA Actor Training Program. In California, he's worked with PCPA, SLO Rep, Poltergeist Theatre Project, SF Shakes, Berkeley Playhouse, Capital Stage, and Town Hall Theatre. Minneapolis credits include Full Circle and Open Eye Figure Theatre. He'll appear in upcoming films *Junho*, *It's Always Something*, and *This Is Your Song*. His favorite projects have been independent and collaborative. Luke is currently in the North Bay Area debating a return to the Twin Cities to [re]connect with networks of community care. ~all art should challenge white supremacy culture~



Mitchell Nease (he/him) Actor. Theatre Artist. Vessel of Shimmy. He earned his BA in Theatre from York College of PA and attended the National Theatre Institute in Fall '18 where he had the privilege to meet, learn, and create with Claire. Favorite roles include Kipps in *The Woman in Black* and Man in Chair in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. In the Fall, he will begin his MFA in Devised Performance at The University of the Arts in Philly. Thank you to the team for allowing me to be a part of this amazing piece! Twitter/Instagram: [@mitchnease](#) mitchellnease.com



Michelle Piasecki (She/Her) is super excited to be part of Our Digital Stories! Past credits include *Avenue Q* (Stage 1 Theatre), *The Bench Project* (06 Ensemble), and some doctor-patient scenarios with Kaiser Permanente (perhaps her favorite role to date!). Michelle works in Admin and Development with the Palo Alto Children's Theatre and believes that Paddington 2 is the best film ever made.



Samantha Ricci (she/her) has kept herself busy throughout the last year by working for some of her favorite theatre companies digitally. Sam helps moderate the Hillbarn theatre twitch channel and co-writes many of their Wednesday night trivia rounds. She has also been the producer and host of Sleepless with the Dragon, a spooky story-telling show through the Dragon theatre and performed right here on the hearttimejob channel. Finally, she has been an editor and collaborator in Red Ladder Theatre Company's digital workshops for incarcerated men and women, and is excited for the time that she can teach and perform in person again.



Francisco Rodriguez is a theatre-maker, primarily as an actor and producer. He has worked with a number of theatre companies and schools within the bay area as well as in Mexico. He is the founder and the Artistic Director of the Mexican American Conservatory Theatre; an international theatre company focusing on translating and producing works from Mexico and Latin America into English, with the intention of spreading and uniting their diverse and rich Theatrical art. FranciscoTeatro.com.



Michelle Skinner (she/her) is excited to be a part of Our Digital Stories! She was last seen as Margo in *Bright Star* at Palo Alto Players. Michelle is a graduate of UC Irvine's drama program, as well as South Coast Repertory's Acting Intensive Program. Favorite credits include: Pauline in *One Man, Two Guvnors*, Brooke in *Noises Off*, Bette in *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*, and Sue in *Carrie: The Musical*. More at michelleskinner.com!



Kathleen Vroom graduated from the University of California Santa Cruz with a BA in Theatre Arts. Favorite acting credits include roles in *Trojan Women a Love Story* (Quixote Project), *Princess and the Pea* (Shakespeare Santa Cruz), *Empire Builders* (Collective Theatre Productions), and *All This Intimacy* (Renegade Theatre Experiment) - each of which taught her to appreciate her craft in a new way. In addition to performing, she has worked as an associate artistic director, lit manager, and sometime dramaturge for Renegade Theatre Experiment, and other Bay Area companies. She loves making compelling art with other passionate creatives, and is thrilled to be participating in the Our Digital Stories project.



Shaina Wagner (he/she/they) is a Bay Area based writer, performer and theatre educator. Shaina is also a member of the San Francisco Neo-Futurist ensemble. Learn more at sfneofuturists.org.



Benjamin Kit Wong (he/they) originally from Fremont, California; graduated from Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa where he wrote his own major in theatre as a vehicle of expression for the marginalized.

THE ODS ENSEMBLE



Tasi Alabastro is an actor, livestreamrunner, and multi-disciplinary digital artist whose work focuses on creating impact through visual storytelling. He was recently featured in the *SF Chronicle Datebook* highlighting his efforts with local arts organizations as it pertains to virtual programming. His online content on Twitch and Youtube focuses on storytelling and interactive programming to engage his audience and deepen community relationships. In addition to having the honor of being published in *CONTENT Magazine*, and *Tayo Magazine*, he is also the recipient of the 2019 Leigh Weimer's Emerging Artist Award and the 2018 SVCcreates Emerging Artist Laureate. He is a proud member of the Red Ladder Theatre Company and is currently working with inmates in state prisons as part of the Arts-in-Corrections program; the program hopes to re-engage participants with their creativity and imagination. To find ways to support the journey, reach out by visiting tasiabalastro.com or by tweeting him at [@tasiabalastro](https://twitter.com/tasiabalastro). | twitch.tv/kreenpananas



April Culver is an actor, marketing professional, and Midwest transplant. She loves spreading the word about great theatre and works as Marketing and Publicity Manager at New Conservatory Theatre Center and as Marketing Director for Silicon Valley Shakespeare. Some of her favorite acting credits include Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Rose of Sharon in *The Grapes of Wrath*, Viola in *Shakespeare in Love*, and Mrs. Givings in *In the Next Room (or The Vibrator Play)* (SFBATCC Nomination, Principal Actress). April is ecstatic to work with the talented bunch at ODS as they navigate the future of digital storytelling.



Christopher Fitzer is a freelance theatrical designer based in the San Francisco Bay Area and currently the properties master at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley. His previous design credits include productions at TheatreWorks, Aspen Opera Theater Center, *World Literature Today's* Puterbaugh Festival, San Jose Stage Co., Hillbarn Theatre, Woodminster Summer Musicals, Oklahoma City Theatre Co., Flat Rock Playhouse, Los Altos Stage Co., Douglas Morrisson Theatre, Palo Alto Players, and Foothill Music Theatre. He has held production and artistic positions at Aspen Music Festival, Sanguine Theatre Company, Curtis Opera Theatre at the Curtis Institute of Music, and Dallas Summer Musicals.



Julianna Garber is a rising junior studying directing at the University of Michigan. Prior to attending university, she co-founded Upstage Theater, a bay area theater group focused on providing opportunities for teens to interact with all sides of theater production. Previous directing credits include *Water By The Spoonful* (Assistant Director to Geoffrey Packard) and *Falsettos* at University of Michigan, as well as *Punk Rock*, *Spring Awakening*, and *Heathers* at Upstage Theater. When not directing, you'll likely find her in rehearsal for a cappella group Amazin' Blue or performing in various shows. Favorite past roles include Natalie in *Next to Normal* at The Refuge, and Ilse in *Spring Awakening* at Exit Left Co.



Jeffrey Lo is a Filipino-American playwright and director based in the Bay Area. He is the recipient of the Leigh Weimers Emerging Artist Award, the Emerging Artist Laureate by Arts Council Silicon Valley and Theatre Bay Area Director's TITAN Award. Selected directing credits include *The Language Archive* and *The Santaland Diaries* at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, *Vietgone* at Capital Stage, *A Doll's House, Part 2* and *Eurydice* at Palo Alto Players, *Peter and the Starcatcher* and *Noises Off* at Hillbarn Theatre, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Crucible* and *Yellow Face* at Los Altos Stage Company and *Uncle Vanya* at the Pear Theatre. As a playwright, his plays have been produced and workshopped at The BindleStiff

Studio, City Lights Theatre Company and Custom Made Theatre Company. His play *Writing Fragments Home* was a finalist for the Bay Area Playwright's Conference and a semi-finalist for the O'Neill Playwright's Conference. In addition to his work in theatre he works as an educator and advocate for issues of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and has served as a grant panelist for the Zellerbach Family Foundation, Silicon Valley Creates and Theatre Bay Area. He is the Casting Director at the Tony Award Winning TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, a graduate of the Multicultural Arts Leadership Institute and a proud alumnus of the UC Irvine Drama Department.



Steve Muterspaugh is excited to be messing around in this virtual space for a good cause! His most recently directing credits include *It's Only a Play* at Hillbarn Theatre, and *The Three Musketeers* at Douglas Morrison Theatre in Hayward. Other Bay Area directing credits include: *The Odd Couple* at Jewel Theatre Company, where he previously served as Deputy Artistic Director; *Hamlet* and *The Taming of the Shrew* at San Francisco Shakespeare Festival (former Associate Artistic Director), where he also headed the Steve Muterspaugh Shakespeare on Tour program for 5 seasons, directing *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Julius Caesar*, *As You Like It*, and *Hamlet*. When not directing, Stephen is the Artistic

Operations / Company Manager at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley. He is a proud member of Actor's Equity and a graduate of the actor training program at PCPA.



Isabella Waldron is a recent graduate of Scripps College and an emerging playwright/actress. Her work centers around intergenerational stories and ferocious women. In quarantine times, Isabella's writing might have been seen on the first episode of *Our Digital Stories* or as a finalist in Mixily Presents *The Classics: Reimagined*. She recently wrote a musical in one night with the 24 Hour Plays 2020 Nationals Cohort. Other plays include *Jawbone*, *Things I Never Told the Stars*, and *Gentle, Angry Women*. Isabella is a proud alum of the National Theatre Institute at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center. In addition to writing and acting, Isabella is also a poet, pianist and baker.

OUR DIGITAL STORIES

The idea for digital stories came from a place of need. A group of artists were in the beginnings of the COVID-19 global pandemic, and eager to find a way to contribute to the community and to find a creative outlet while sheltering in place. What came of it was a fundraiser event surrounding a series of pieces that were set within the digital world – video chats, phone calls, texts – and performed on the digital medium of the story. We saw these as a hybrid of a ten-minute play and a short film and called them ‘Digital Stories.’

When we created these digital stories, we realized something interesting and quite special. The health concerns of the world required us to stay apart from each other, and we wanted to see what would happen if we leaned into this need to stay apart and see what it did for our storytelling. Although this new format of storytelling was not going to replace what we loved about live theatre or film and television, this format of play provided us an opportunity to create stories that felt surprisingly intimate in a way that feels entirely real and entirely of the moment. With **OUR DIGITAL STORIES**, we are looking to continue this work through regular episodes where we will present a number of individual digital stories while partnering with different community service and arts organizations to help support them. In addition to this, we hope that by using the Internet as our venue, **OUR DIGITAL STORIES** can be a point of access to storytelling and representation for all communities.

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