

SHOW DESCRIPTION & PROFESSIONAL ARTIST BIOS

JOLIE ROUGE SYNOPSIS

JOLIE ROUGE, a sea shanty hip hop musical, is the true story of the remarkable pirates ***Anne Bonny and Mary(tin) Read***. "Jolie Rouge" opens with Anne and Mary(tin) in a Bahamas jail, about to be hanged for piracy! They hold off the jailer by insisting that their story be told. Anne and Mary(tin) are bastards who buck convention – Mary, a soldier and sharpshooter and Anne, headstrong writer. Both find their way to sea under a disguise as male pirates - soon to miraculously discover each other and their true selves. Anne & Marytin's gender-bending friendship must survive betrayal, the "golden age of patriarchy", and the fast-on-their-heels law that seeks to bring their pirating (and lives) to an end. Jolie Rouge is a story of hero(ine) pirates for our time...set exactly 300 years ago. *"Jolie Rogue" is Written by Cindy Parrish, Composed by Kate Eberstadt and Fernanda Douglas, and Directed by Molly Rose Heller.*

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

Molly Rose Heller, Director is a lesbian theatre artist based in NYC. Directing credits include: Church of the Strangers(Randy Weiner/Remarkable Entertainment, developmental workshop dir.), Notes from the Basement (Corkscrew Festival, Watermill Center, Center at West Park, Dixon Place), The Crucible (BEDLAM, SDCF Observership), Lalabala Project (Watermill Center, University Settlement, Lucid Body House, and the upcoming 3rd Annual Kathmandu International Children's Theatre Festival), and Faust 2.0 (Mabou Mines, asst dir.). As a writer, Molly is currently the Senior Writer at UNSHUT. She was commissioned to write lyrics for the theme song of the award-winning indie web-series "Educated Fleas." Her poetry has been featured by Torn Out Theater, and she is a frequent contributor to Burrowing Artist's Monologue Series. Her acting credits include Design for Living (Berkshire Theatre Group) and Imagining the Imaginary Invalid (La Mama ETC). Molly graduated Magna Cum Laude with Departmental Honors for a B.A. in Theatre and Drama Arts from Columbia University and B.A. in Modern Jewish Studies from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Magna Cum Laude. She is a 2019 Finalist for Mabou Mines Resident Artist Program, an alum of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation Observership Program, a former Apprentice at the Berkshire Theatre Group, and a former member of the BAT Resident Acting Company at the Flea Theater. She is currently the program director of CityStage, a pre-college institute at the Jewish Theological Seminary exploring the intersection of Theatre and Jewish Studies. She is a proud SDC Associate Member, and member of Actors Equity Association.

www.mollyroseheller.com

Kate Eberstadt, Composer is a composer, writer & performing artist. Her work has been shown at National Sawdust, The Connelly Theater, Clubbed Thumb, NYU, Columbia, Dixon Place, Corkscrew Festival, and internationally at the Berliner Festspiele, National Theater of Kazakhstan, Sadler Wells, and Z/KU Berlin; upcoming, Kathmandu Children's Theater Festival. Artist residencies: Watermill Center, Center at West Park, American Academy in Berlin, Good Hart Artist Residency (upcoming). She was selected as a 2021 Toulmin Creator as part of the inaugural Toulmin Fellowship, National Sawdust and Center of Ballet and the Arts. Recipient of the Dramatists Guild Foundation Steven Schwartzberg Grant. Finalist: June Jordan Fellowship, NYMF, National Park Arts Foundation, Eugene O'Neill National Music Theater Conference(semifinalist). TV appearances:

VH1, MTV VMAs. Kate founded The Hutto Project, a music program for children living in an emergency refugee camp in Berlin. She teaches songwriting workshops in public schools, foster care, and prisons, partnering with organizations including YOSOS, the Possibility Project, and Urban Art Beat. Select press: NPR, Mic.com, ELLE, Glamour, PopSugar. Published by The Berlin Journal, ROM Mag, Slant, The Writers Rock Quarterly. She is 1/2 the sister duo Delune. Kate is a graduate of Columbia University. www.kateberstadt.com

Fernanda Douglas, Composer is a music director and composer from Goleta, CA. She is an associate voice coach with Broadway vocal supervisor, Liz Caplan, and serves as the Secretary of The Dream Unfinished, NYC's activist orchestra. Her original musical, Plath., with book and lyrics by Molly Heller was part of the 2015 NY Fringe Festival. Fernanda worked on "The Unknown Soldier" at Playwright's Horizons in 2020 until it was interrupted by the shutdown. She is an active member of the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop and an alumna of Columbia University.

Cindy L. Parrish, Writer is a multimedia performer, writer, and filmmaker. Cindy directed and wrote the films, HEROIC GIRLZ and MAKING HISTORY, which won awards from the National Women's Hall of Fame, the Friends of the Women's Rights National Convention, and the Moondance Film Festival, has screened at the United Nations. Her TEDx talk on the film and the program is [available to view here](#). Cindy's screenplays and stageplays, including the award-winning MAGIC PLANET, RIVER RATS (a family film airing on Showtime), and WomAnimal, a one-woman show performed at the Berkshire 10x10 Festival and Women's Shorts Festival. A professional storyteller, Cindy is a founding member of the storytelling troupe, The Snickering Witches, and the performance poetry troupe, ARCHEtEXT. Cindy has served as the Artistic Director of ACT NOW, a not-for-profit empowering adolescent girls through improvised, communal writing and movie-making, a faculty member teaching writing and filmmaking at The University at Albany, and at Buxton School in Western MA, as well as a long-time Associate at the Bard Institute for Writing and Thinking. Cindy currently works at Rikers Island, as the Education Manager for the digital tablet education program.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

The first act of Jolie Rouge is to be performed by a cast of 12 actors.

**NOTE: The ensemble plays a multitude of smaller roles.

❖ ACTOR 1

- ANNE BONNY, (18) woman pirate, born in Ireland, half-Black, moving as a child to Charleston in the colony of South Carolina. She's a storyteller who wants to write down everything and is enraged by not being allowed to have her sovereignty. Fiery, like her red hair!

❖ ACTOR 2

- MARY READ, aka MARTIN READ, aka MARYTIN READ (28) gender non-binary pirate, born outside London, England, raised as Martin, a boy, a foot soldier, then sailor, then pirate. They're fine pretending to be a boy and then a man – they like the jobs and action that go with it. Sharp shooter and loner.

❖ ACTOR 3

➤ CAPTAIN CHARLES JOHNSON, (40's) a rotund seafaring man played by a woman in drag with slight Irish accent. The author of *A General History of the Robberies and Murders of the Most Notorious Pyrate* by Captain Charles Johnson.

❖ ACTOR 4

- CAPTAIN JOHN "CALICO JACK" RACKHAM, (35) pirate, born in Bristol, moved to Caribbean. A ladies' man who wears Calico and Captains a pirate ship. He's taken the pardon several times and likes to bend with the wind.
- KARL, (mid 20's) Mary Read's tentmate in the war and (briefly) her husband. Flemish or English.

❖ ACTOR 5

- NOAH HARWOOD, (late 20's) scrappy pirate aboard "The William." Cockney and scrappy. He's not the brightest bulb. He wants perhaps more than his fair share, and has it in for Caesar.
- JAMES BONNY, (25) Irish, Pirate Snitch and legally married to Anne Bonny, jealous of Jack Rackham. Terrier-like. Doesn't understand why he can't have more. Informs on the pirates.

❖ ACTOR 6

- CAESAR ABIMBOLA, (20) pirate aboard "The William", West African, of noble birth, stolen by slavers and shipped across the middle passage on a slave ship at age 8, signs on as a pirate when slave ship is taken by pirate Capt. Charles Vane. ➤

ENSEMBLE

❖ ACTOR 7:

- GEORGE FETHERSTON, (30's) pirate aboard "The William", of Cockney English extraction. Turns to pirating after sailing in the English navy.
- ENSEMBLE

❖ ACTOR 8

- WOODES ROGERS, (45) Round-the-world Privateer & Governor of New Providence, Bahamas, and slave-owner. He legally plundered many a Spanish ship in his day and then wrote a book about it. Now he's the take-no-prisoners governor determined to clean up the pirates den and all the waters of the Caribbean. ➤

ENSEMBLE

❖ ACTOR 9

- ENSEMBLE

❖ ACTOR 10

- ENSEMBLE

❖ ACTOR 11

- ENSEMBLE

❖ ACTOR 12

- ENSEMBLE