



or what she will

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Derrick Olson / 646-481-9335

**ANNOUNCING THE
WORLD PREMIERE OF**

or what she will

A New Play by Charly E. Simpson
Directed by Illana Stein

Produced in partnership with

The New York International Fringe Festival – FringeNYC
A production of The Present Company

Sunday, August 12th @12:00pm; Wednesday, August 15th @ 3:00pm; Saturday, August 18th @
7:00pm; Sunday, August 19th @ 9:15pm, and Friday, August 24th @ 4:45pm.

HERE Mainstage Theatre
145 Sixth Ave, NY, NY 10013

Tickets \$15 - \$18. For Tickets visit www.FringeNYC.org

For more information visit www.orwhatshewill.com

Working Title Theatre Company is proud to present *or what she will* as part of the 16th annual New York International Fringe Festival – FringeNYC.

This is a tale of the perfect family. It is a story of twins coming together and pulling apart and parallels the relationship of the twins in *Twelfth Night*. 13 year-old Twins Willa and Faulkner share everything including their parents' love of literature. That time in our lives when we are so impressionable and vulnerable and one moment can change everything and send us down a different path.

Playwright, Charly E. Simpson describes the play as, “Poetic, haunting, and one that forces us to question our assumptions about those around us. People should come see this play because it won’t be over for them when they leave the theater. The characters, the questions, the story will stick with them.”

Ms. Simpson is a Philadelphia-based playwright who received her B.A. in Theatre Arts and Literary Arts from Brown University and has masters in Women’s Studies from the University of Oxford, New College. In addition to her work in the arts, Ms. Simpson tutored at-risk youth in Massachusetts and was assistant director at a camp in Pennsylvania dedicated to working with children in need of emotional and/or autistic support. Her personal essay, *In the Shadows*, is

included in the anthology, *A Book of Meditations: Volume III*. She is also the recipient of the 2008 Kim Ann Arstrak Memorial Award in Poetry as well as the 2008 Dorothy Stickney Theatre Arts Scholarship presented by the Zonta Club of New York.

The show features twins Willa and Faulkner played by Monica Jones and Alex Haynes. Ms. Jones is originally from Oklahoma City and has been based in NYC for the last 3 years as an actor and producer. She was recently featured as Emory in the short film *The Other Girl* that premiered in the Brooklyn Arts Council Film Festival.

Ms. Jones said, “I absolutely love playing young Willa. She has a vibrant imagination and thirst for knowledge that propels her through life. I really enjoy her innocence and her self-discovery. To capture the rhythm and poetry of the piece, you have to approach the text like a Shakespearean tragedy. This play is about a family whose dynamic changes in a moment and how they respond.” Other NYC credits for Ms. Jones include Perdita in *The Winter’s Tale*, Trebonius, Titinius, Marullus in *Julius Caesar* (Hudson Shakespeare Company), Prince Richard, Captain James Blunt in *Richard III* (Love Creek Productions) and Venita in *Skylines*.

Alex Haynes is a native New Yorker. Since returning to NYC, he has performed with Impetus Ensemble and Sanguine Theatre Company. Mr. Haynes has studied improvisation at the Upright Citizens Brigade and his improv group, Day Camp Kids, hosts a bi-monthly show at The People’s Improv Theatre called “Tug of War”.

Illana Stein directs the show. As a native Texan, Ms. Stein moved to NYC in November and was eager to get involved with FringeNYC. “I love that festivals let artists push their theatrical boundaries and work on shows that may never make it to mainstream. I first heard an excerpt of Charly’s script as part of a reading with NYC based Sanguine Theatre Company and knew it was perfect for Fringe. With a minimal set, made out of books, the script relies on Charly’s beautiful and complex language juxtaposed with the simplicity of story telling. This stylized world opened up my imagination, which is really a gift for a director. The world of literature and poetry becomes our playground. This play takes you on an emotional journey, never going where you expect it to.”

Other NYC directing credits for Ms. Stein include *Ten Year Twilight* by Crystal Skillman, *Besties* (Working Theater Directors Salon), and *The Boat House* (Staged Reading, Sanguine Theatre Company.) Before moving to NYC, Ms. Stein spent 3 years as Assistant to the Artistic Director at Cincinnati Shakespeare Company where she served as Assistant Director/Dramaturg on over 20 productions and assisted with casting. Regional work includes assistant directing credits at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Yale Repertory Theater, Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey, and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. Other directing credits include *Emma, Home Free!* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival Midnight Project), *Two Rooms* (Staged Reading, Amphibian Stage Productions), *As You Like It*, and *The Woolgatherer*.

Leo Arias as Dad, Rebecca Martinez as Mom, John Say as Man/Detective, and Dina Vovsi as Julie round out the cast. Production team includes Dramaturg Gina Pisasale, Lighting Designer Porsche McGovern, Composer of Original Music CS Luxem, Fight Choreographer Alexis Black, ACR Connor Davis, and Stage Manager Ashley Singh. General Management by Derrick Olson.