

Handwritten Productions Presents

THE ABDICATION



A Play By Ruth Wolff
Directed by Rachel Wolfe

CREW

Stage Management Audrey Bartron
Scenic Design Julia Welch
Lighting Design Kelly Engle
Costume Design Afton Pilkington
Sound Design Kristie Dutra
Properties Robin Macartney
Fight Direction Stephen Scheide
Dramaturgy Audrey Bartron
Graphic Design Jen Hickman
Media Relations Charlotte Emigh
Producers Jacob Sherman, Julia Welch

CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Birgito Tomoko Saito
Dominic Craig Trolli
Christina of Sweden Gretta Stimson
Cardinal Azzolino Tim Brandt
Tina Corey Lynn Atencio
Oxenstierna Rhys Henley
Chris Kalee Smyth
Charles Raymond Williams
Ebba Elaine Huber
Magnus Joey Fechtel

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Love is one of the single most written-about emotions in the human experience. Our lives are flooded with love songs, love poems, love stories, even sermons about God's love for humanity. *The Abdication* is no exception—its central concern is love. But love in *The Abdication* is not straightforward; it is convoluted, fragmented, blocked at every turn by barriers that are both social and psychological. The usual categories of platonic love, erotic love, and divine love seem to hinder more than help an understanding of the various loves of Christina's life. The need to sort them this way (both hers and our own) slices love into a number of sharp fragments that are too dangerous to grasp. *The Abdication* is about the love of self and the love of others: about the fractures we create within those loves by setting people apart from *one another* through power structures, and apart from *themselves* through our rules about how people ought to think, behave, and feel. Answers to this problem are neither clear nor easy, but Wolff's unconventional script challenges us to try to find them. *The Abdication* demands that we find both the question and the answer embedded in the play's final line: "Why?"

SPECIAL THANKS

Steven Steward, Ryan Spickard, Lucinda Stroud, Debbie Hayes, Jeremy Thompson, Peter Frost, Rik Deskin and the Eclectic Theatre Company

It is tempting to simplify our world.

Handwritten Productions aspires to theatre that uses the full breadth of the English language in order to draw our audience to discuss those complexities they might otherwise ignore.

www.handwrittenproductions.org