

# Cygnets Productions

## *Presents*



### **Withering Looks**

by Maggie Fox and Sue Ryding (LipService)

Produced for  
Cygnets Radio Hour  
October 2021

Directed by Louanne Moldovan

### **Cast, in order of first appearance**

Narrator	Sarah Lucht
Audrey, Charlotte, et alia	Luisa Sermol
Olivia, Emily, Nelly, et alia	Vana O'Brien

### **Crew**

Line Producer	Carol Ann Wohlmutter
Music Composer	Rody Ortega
Engineer & Editor	Mike DiNapoli

### **Setting**

The village of Haworth in the West Riding of Yorkshire, England. And the wild, heathered moors, with the soaring eagles, the wailing wind and the twisted shapes of the blasted stumps.

### **Running Time**

Approximately 60 minutes, not including the companion Conversation with Maggie Fox and Sue Ryding of the LipService).

### **Tickets**

*Withering Looks* is free to stream, thanks to generous support from the Ronni S Lacroute Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation.

### **Synopsis**

Find yourself transported into the front room of the Brontë Parsonage in Haworth where your hostesses Audrey and Olivia will lead you on a romp through the lives and letters of Charlotte Brontë (author of *Jane Eyre*) and Emily Brontë (best known for *Wuthering Heights*)—with a few zany detours. The duo's blundering comedy is right out of the British farce playbook.

## About the Playwrights

**Maggie Fox** and **Sue Ryding** met as Drama students at Bristol University in an Ibsen production which had the audience on the floor laughing. A tragedy for Ibsen — but the fine launch of a comedy partnership. LipService makes original comedies with a distinctly female perspective.

Maggie and Sue formed LipService in 1985 and have produced 20 original comedies for the stage, series on Radios 2 and 4, plus TV appearances. They tour in the UK and have also toured in Pakistan, the USA, Eastern Europe, and Germany. They've won many awards, including:

- Manchester Theatre Award Stage Door Award for Excellence 2013
- Manchester Evening News Award Withering Looks
- Critics Award for Comedy Withering Looks at the Edinburgh Festival
- Critics Award for Comedy Knit One Murder One at the Edinburgh Festival



LipService also works with Heritage organizations on site-specific events, such as the Brontë Parsonage Museum.

## Producer/Director

**Louanne Moldovan** is the founder and artistic director of Cygnet Productions, the “literary cabaret” of Portland, Oregon. Cygnet’s mission is to produce entertaining, stimulating works of literature with social consciousness; the company presents dramatic adaptations of literary works as well as producing plays written for the stage.

She is the winner of an Oregon Book Award for Drama in 2004, as coauthor of *Vitriol & Violets: Tales from the Algonquin Round Table*.

She directs for companies including the Civic Theatre Guild and Artists Repertory Theatre. She also directs talent on-set for TV commercials and films.

In Los Angeles, Louanne worked for 20th Century Fox Films, was an acting member of the Company of Angels Theater, and writer and co-leader with the Women's Writing Project at the Los Angeles Theatre Center. She served as an artistic supervisor of the Imagination Workshop, a group of performers working with psychiatric patients to facilitate a creative experience.



For Louanne, theatre is the capricious, beloved stepsister to her divine daughter, Alex.

## Guest Conversationalists

LipService has been called “the Laurel and Hardy of literary deconstruction” by the Guardian newspaper. Maggie and Sue sat for a Conversation with Louanne, in which they talked about the history of *Withering Looks*, how LipService came to be, and much more.

## Cast

### Sarah Lucht — Narrator

Sarah Lucht is an actor, educator, and workshop facilitator. An Artists Repertory Theatre resident artist since 2013, Sarah first appeared at Artists Rep in *The Artificial Jungle* some 30 years ago. Since then, she has appeared in numerous productions including most recently as God/Usher in *Everybody*, in the world premiere of *The Thanksgiving Play*, and in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Trevor*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, and *Ten Chimneys*.

She has been privileged to work with Cygnet Productions on *Durang*, *Durang, Durang* and *the Seagull* as well as delightful holiday (Christmas and Valentine's Day) readings.

She is on the faculty of the newly named The Actors Conservatory (TAC), and develops and teaches classes for the TAC studio program. She also teaches Shakespeare, audition technique, and scene study in area high schools. She is a founding member of the Portland Shakespeare Project, and is a faculty member at the Haven Institute in British Columbia where she leads acting workshops. Sarah also serves as a private coach for performing artists and business leaders, with a special emphasis on audition preparation, and breath and energy work.



### Vana O'Brien — Olivia, Edith, et alia



Vana's been a Cygnet company member from the beginning. Just a few of Vana's performances with Cygnet include *Xingu* (the 1999 production as well as 2021); *Cupid Unzipped*; *Tourists*; *Durang, Durang, Durang*; *The Jewish Wife*; *The Way We Live Now*; *Faith Healer*; *Kings and War Music*; *The Seagull*; *Women of Courage*; *Pinter on Pinter on Pinter*, and Oscar Wilde's *Lady Windermere's Fan*.

She is a founding member of Artists Repertory Theatre (1981). She joined Artists Rep's Southeast Asia Arts America tours in 1991 and 1994, performing in *Driving Miss Daisy*, *The World of Carl Sandburg*, *Three Tall Women* and *A Journey through*

*American Comedy*. One of her favorite productions is Donald Margulies' *Collected Stories*, which she and her daughter Eleanor performed together at CoHo in 2007. Vana trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London.

## Luisa Sermol — Audrey, Charlotte, et alia

Luisa is a classically trained AEA/SAG actress who works in Portland and the Bay Area. Previous credits for Cygnet include *Bloody Poetry*, *Lady Windemere's Fan*, *Vitriol* and



*Violets*, *Withering Looks*, and a coproduction with CoHo, *Heather Raffo's 9 Parts of Desire*. Other Portland credits include *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart*, *The Humans*, *Cuba Libre* (world premiere), *Three Sisters* (Tracy Letts' adaptation), *Xmas Unplugged*, *Lost Boy* (premiere), *The Goat*, *Night of the Iguana*, *Touch*, *Sideman*, and *Master Class* (Artists Repertory Theatre); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Portland Center Stage); *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Suddenly Last Summer* (Shaking the Tree); *Company*, *No*

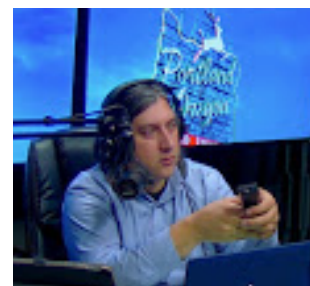
*Way to Treat a Lady* (Broadway Rose); *Sans Merci* (Badass Theater); *Mary Stuart* (NW Classical/Cygnet); *Hen Night Epiphany* (Corrib Theater); *Boleros for the Disenchanted* (Miracle Theatre); *Ashes to Ashes* (Profile); and *Taming of the Shrew*, *Twelfth Night* (Tygres Heart). Bay Area credits: *Archduke* and *They Promised Her the Moon* (Theatreworks Silicon Valley), *The Siegel* (City Lights), *Noises Off* and *It's Only a Play* (Hillbarn Theatre). Luisa has also performed in New York/regionally with The Roundabout, Classic Stage Company, Colonial Theatre, and Williamstown Theatre Festival, as well as numerous Off-Off Broadway productions.

Luisa is a five-time recipient of the Portland Drama Critics "Drammy" for Outstanding Actress in a Lead role. Television/Film work includes *Grimm*, *Leverage*, *Personals*, *Zero Effect* and *Insect Poetry*. She holds an MAT from Lewis & Clark College, and a conservatory degree in acting from The Juilliard School. A teacher for many institutions in Portland, Luisa currently is a teaching artist for Portola Valley Conservatory, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, and Portland Actors Conservatory (The Actors Conservatory).

## Crew

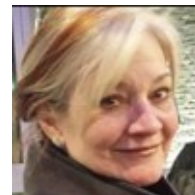
**Mike DiNapoli** is the Chief Engineer for the [Studio at North Rim](#). Earlier in his career, he served as Production Engineer for the Mount Hood Community College Creative Writing Speaker Series and the weekly live broadcasts of Midnight Sunrise Radio and On the Block Radio. He directed the 2014 Pickathon Woods stage, where five of his sets were chosen as NPR Favorite Sessions.

He has helped produce many live-to-broadcast sports, entertainment, and charitable events in the Portland area. He's also traveled the country installing and designing infrastructure systems for radio, television, and telecommunications clients including NBC, AT&T, Time Warner, Verizon, and Comcast.



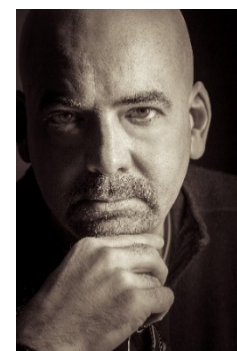


**Sherry Lamoreaux** has been involved with Cygnet since the late nineties, both as a publicist and a coauthor of *Vitriol & Violets*. She was the press officer for Bag & Baggage Productions from 2009–2013. She’s also worked as a writer and/or editor for high tech companies including Swan Island Networks, Act-On, and Intel. She’s on the board of [PlayWrite](#), a non-profit that pairs theatre professionals with at-risk kids to teach the youth creative skills to manage and surmount trauma. PlayWrite’s tagline is “Transforming the lives of ‘youth at the edge’ through the power of performance in art.”



**Belinda Miller** (social media, etc.) was born and raised in Portland. She was a theater major in LA, and an actor/waiter in NYC, where she began a delightful avocation as a radio DJ on legendary, freeform WFMU. Greasy Kid Stuff, her show with her husband/co-host, ran for 22 years, first on WFMU then in Portland on 94.7 KNRK and [XRAY.FM](#). Belinda and family moved back to Portland in 2004. She's also been a music producer, business owner, communications manager, copywriter, and social media manager.

**Rodolfo Ortega** is this production’s Composer and Sound Designer. Rodolfo has designed sound and composed music for some of the most prestigious theatre companies in the United States including The Oregon Shakespeare Festival (*The Tenth Muse*, *Romeo and Juliet*), Denver Center Theatre Company (*The Three Musketeers*, *Romeo & Juliet*), and South Coast Repertory Theatre (*The Monster Builder*). Rodolfo has also written the compositions for *Native Gardens* at Cleveland Playhouse and recently worked on Actors Theater of Louisville's production of *Flex* and *Nicole Clarke is Having a Baby* for the Humana Festival. In addition to being a Resident Artist at Artists Rep, Rodolfo is also an Associate Artist with Santa Cruz Shakespeare (*Hamlet*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Man in the Iron Mask*, *Henry IV (I & II)*, *Henry V*). His composition for Santa Cruz Shakespeare’s *Love’s Labour’s Lost* drew high praise from the *Wall Street Journal*’s reviewer, who called his music “unexpectedly haunting”.



For Artists Rep, Rodolfo has designed and composed music for 1984, *La Ruta*, *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart*, *Caught*, *Skin of Our Teeth*, *The Liar*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Exiles*, *Miracle Worker* and *Intimate Apparel*, just to name a few of the over one hundred shows he has done for Artist Rep since 2000. Rodolfo recently won the Prague Quadrennial Competition in Music for his composition for Artist Repertory Theater’s *Magellanica*, where he was a featured Artist, in Prague in June 2019. He also works extensively at Northwest Children’s Theatre where he has been commissioned to write numerous musicals (*Hansel and Gretel*, *Snow White*, *Pinocchio*, *Peter Pan*, *The Little Mermaid* and *El Zorrillo*). Rodolfo spent 13 years working with Profile Theatre where his credits include sound design and music for *The Blue Door*, *A Lesson Before Dying*, *Lips Together Teeth Apart* and *Master Harold and the Boys*. He has also worked with Portland Playhouse, Oregon Children’s Theatre, CoHo Productions, Corrib Theatre and Milagro Theatre. [www.rodyortega.com](http://www.rodyortega.com)

**Carol Ann Wohlmuth** is the Line Producer for *The Wild Party*. Carol Ann has been a theater artist for over 30 years and is currently a Resident Artist at Artists Rep Theater in Portland, Oregon. While at ART she has stage-managed: *The Weir*, *Art*, *The Shape of Things*, *Copenhagen*, *Top Dog/Underdog*, *The Lobby Hero*, *Mercy Seat*, *Enchanted April*, *The Seagull*, *Assassins*, *Mr. Marmalade*, *Mars on Life – The Holiday Edition*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Blackbird*, *Three Sisters*, *Design for Living*, *Othello*, *Ah, Wilderness!*, *Mars on Life-Live!*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *God of Carnage*, *Red Herring*, *Ithaka*, *Mistakes Were Made*, *The Playboy of the Western World*, *Blithe Spirit*, *The Invisible Hand*, *The Liar*, *Broomstick*, *Mothers and Sons*, *Grand Concourse*, *Feathers and Teeth*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *An Octoroon*, *The Humans*, *The Thanksgiving Play*, *Skeleton Crew*, *It's a Wonderful Life: a Radio Play*, *Revolutionists*, *1984*, *LaRuta* and *Indecent*.



In addition to stage management and line producing, Carol Ann has been a properties artisan, production manager, board operator, and even an accountant for a variety of theatres in the Portland area over the past 30+ years. These theatres include Portland Center Stage, Portland Rep, Stark Raving Theater, New Rose Theatre, Triangle Productions, Musical Theater Co, Metro Performing Arts, Northwest Children's Theatre, and Carousel Co.

Carol Ann is on staff at The Portland Actors Conservatory, where she teaches The Art of Stage Management. She can often be seen lecturing on The Art of Making Theater to educational institutes in and around the Portland Metro area.

**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!**