

DIRECTED BY BENNETT FROHOCK

**THE
GOOSE A PLAY
MOST FOWL
BY KURT KELLEY**

A STREAMING THEATRICAL EVENT

APR 9-11

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UNIVERSITY *of* NORTH TEXAS

Department of Dance and Theatre

Presents

The Goose: A Play Most Fowl

By: Kurt Kelley

Director.....Bennett Frohock

Stage Manager.....Elizabeth Hernandez

Cast List

Sam.....McKenna Curtis

Ricky.....Erik Crowl

Biographies

Bennett Frohock (Director) is a senior graduating with degrees in theatre performance and psychology. He is excited for the opportunity to direct a show that melds his two passions together. After graduating Bennett plans to move to Dallas and continue his theatrical pursuits.

Kurt Kelley (Playwright) is a senior in his final semester at UNT. He is pursuing a BA in Theatre with a concentration in Performance and English with a concentration in Creative Writing. *The Goose: A Play Most Fowl* is the first play he has written. He was last seen in UNT theatre in the Zoom performance of *Machinal*. He is very excited to share this story.

Elizabeth Hernandez (Stage Manager) is a freshman at the University of North Texas pursuing a degree in Theatre along with her Teaching Certification. She's been involved with theatre ever since her childhood and has developed a passion for the fine arts. Although she loves to be behind the scenes working in tech, Elizabeth also enjoys performing on stage. Some of her favorite performances include: Greta from *Dark Road* and Eva from *And a Child Shall Lead*. Her stage managing credentials include *Chicago* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. She's excited for the opportunity to be an assistant stage manager at the collegiate level and she hopes to continue working with the UNT theatre department. She would like to thank her family and friends who have impacted her and supported her throughout her journey thus far.

McKenna Curtis (Sam) is a senior pursuing a degree in Theater with a concentration in performance. She will be graduating this spring. She graduated from Bishop Lynch High School where she was involved in the Blackfriars Guild and performed in shows such as *The Importance of Being Earnest* (2017), *The Hollow* (2016), *Lo and Behold!* (2016), and *Curtain Going Up!* (2015) Credits at UNT include *Private Lives* (2019), *Summer and Smoke* (2019), and APO Dinner Theater's *Thirst for Blood* (2018). Other than UNT she has been present in Denton Community Theater, performing in *Heathers* (2018) and *The Glass Menagerie* (2019). After graduating from UNT, McKenna hopes to pursue a career in performance in either California or New York City.

Erik Crowl (Ricky) *The Goose: A Play Most Fowl* will be Eric's last production here at UNT, and he cannot be more pleased with how it's gone. He can say without a shadow of a doubt that this will be one of his more surreal college experiences... he most certainly wasn't expecting a certain phobia regarding the Anatidae family of waterfowl... He intends on watching them with a sharper eye now that he's got this show under his belt.

Writer's Note

The inspiration for *The Goose: A Play Most Fowl* was a small inside joke to start. I made an off-hand comment that I hated geese based on principle and I tried to push the idea of goose-driven hatred to its absolute limits. That's what the play is about. Pushing limits, and seeing how far a couple of guys can go. How far until they break or bend? And that's what *The Goose* became. The show is about friendship, limits, boundaries, and complex emotions. The play holds a place in my heart because I accomplished what I set out to do: Write a Play about a Goose.

-Kurt Kelley

Director's Note

The Goose: a Play Most Fowl is a deceptive play. The title and fundamental concept of the play suggest a comedy. *The Goose* (while it does contain some hilarious moments) is not a comedy. This was not always the case. In Kurt's earliest drafts the play lacked its' more sinister elements. The story evolved from a silly concept into a vignette peering into the mind of a man experiencing a serious mental health crisis. The DSM-V (the primary diagnostic tool for assessing mental illness) describes 5 symptoms of schizophrenia: 1) delusions, 2) hallucinations, 3) disorganized speech, 4) disorganized or catatonic behavior, and 5) negative symptoms. Only 2 of these symptoms must be present for a diagnosis. How many apply to Ricky?

When rehearsing *The Goose*, I would speak to Erik as if I were the voices in his head. He trained using schizophrenia simulators, and developed techniques to get into the intense headspace of Ricky. I have never pushed an actor so far towards madness.

While we have found the diagnoses Dr. Bennett almost certainly gave Ricky: Schizophrenia, Paranoid type, this does not answer the fundamental question of the play. Does the Goose exist? I encourage you to discover the answer for yourself. Pay attention to the clues left by the playwright.

Another interesting aspect of the play was the gender change decided in casting. Originally, Sam was meant to be James. I think you'll find that certain lines in the show land with far more gravity coming from a woman's perspective. The pure and platonic friendship the actor's created here is a refreshing break from our heteronormative society which claims men and women cannot be friends without some kind of romance forming.

The Goose is a play about mental illness, friendship, and trust. Believe your friends before you doubt them, for doubt leads to distrust and distrust leads to dysfunction. Mental illness needs to be destigmatized so people like Ricky will get the help they need before it is too late. Pay attention to how society has shaped Rick's opinion on mental health treatment.

Enjoy the show, and watch out for the goose...

-Bennett Frohock

ALPHA PSI OMEGA



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We are Alpha Psi Omega, a nationally established theatre chapter at UNT! Our organization does everything from putting on staged readings, selling concessions and roses, to fundraising for multiple different (and very important) charities throughout the year.

We love being able to provide for our members as well as giving back to the theatre community in any way we can. Your generous donations will go towards helping us build our theatre org into something the whole department can be proud of. The APO Officers and Members thank you so much for your generosity and interest in theatrical arts. Any little donation helps, and we are so grateful for you!

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