

The Sound Inside

*Regional Premiere*

The Sound Inside

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# THE SOUND INSIDE

by Adam  
Rapp

The Sound Inside

January 15 – February 12

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# ABOUT CURIOUS

## NO GUTS NO STORY

“No guts, no story” embodies the ethos of Curious Theatre Company. Established in 1997 by a vanguard Artistic Company that has since grown to 23 professional actors, designers, and directors, Curious brings the best new theatre to Denver. We produce thought-provoking plays designed to challenge ideas, stir emotions, and leave audiences thinking and talking for days.

Curious has cultivated a local and national reputation as a destination for artists and playwrights to foster and develop new work, and as a place where audiences are challenged.

Now in our third decade of bringing thought-provoking theatre to Denver, Curious Theatre Company’s rich history showcases our commitment to playwrights with gutsy things to say.

*The Secretary, 2020*



*Pass Over, 2019*

# A NOTE FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Curious Family,

I began as the new Administrative Director of Curious in the summer of last year, when it became clear that we would finally be able to resume live performances again. In the time since, I have enjoyed getting to know many of you and delighted in your stories about Curious over the years. Please know that we are deeply grateful for your support through these past two-plus decades, especially while our stage was dark.

In preparation for our return to the theater, we worked swiftly to rebuild our small but mighty team. In the months that followed, I am proud to say that we expanded upon an already stellar staff with enthusiastic, creative, and caring individuals who were dedicated to Curious's return. Please say hello to Camdon Presley, our Patron Services Manager; Sally Walker, our Communications Coordinator; and Graham Smith, our Front of House Manager (not to mention their incredible front of house staff!). We were also thrilled to welcome longtime company member and current Artist-in-Residence, Jada Suzanne Dixon, to the staff as our Artistic Producer.

These new additions joined the team that held down the fort these past 18 months (names you may recognize!): Dee Covington, Curious co-founder and Education Director, fearlessly leading our Curious New Voices program; Technical Coordinator Michael Morgan and Production Manager Lisa Prater, our highly skilled production team who make everything possible behind the scenes; Lisa Boehm, our Finance Manager extraordinaire; and of course, Chip Walton, our Producing Artistic Director.

We all feel quite grateful to return to our theatre and look forward to sharing the rest of Season 24 with you. But for now, we're so glad you're here.



With warm wishes & gratitude,

*Annie Oldakowski*

Annie Oldakowski  
*Administrative Director*



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Help support Curious's return to the stage by making a donation at [CuriousTheatre.org/donate](https://CuriousTheatre.org/donate)

# A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Adam Rapp is known for plays combining dark, often violent elements with absurdist humor. He's been called a "master of small moments." Many of his plays are deeply disturbing—even unsettling—and, at the same time, mysterious and elusive.

Rapp doesn't believe in spelling everything out for an audience. He wants his audience to "leave the theatre and forget where you parked your car." He strongly believes in the interplay between the conscious and subconscious, in asking big questions in the theatre and in trusting an audience's intelligence to answer said questions for themselves.

To experience *The Sound Inside* is akin to reading an engrossing novel: it unfolds at its own pace and the pace cannot be rushed; it is infused with challenging ideas and complex themes—which you may not be aware of in the moment, but which haunt you in retrospect. It is inhabited by characters as familiar and as mysterious as the people we interact with daily.

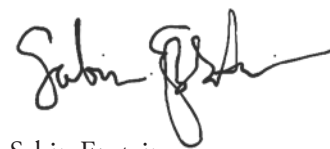
*The Sound Inside* is about art and artists, about writing and writers (31 different writers and books are cited throughout the play)—about the human need for contact and intimacy, about loneliness and isolation, about the act of writing, about creation itself. It is an intimate story, detailing small, quiet moments in seemingly ordinary lives while at the same time addressing the larger, existential issues underlying the identity of its two characters, issues involving the right to determine our own destiny.

This play asks us to consider where inspiration comes from, how an object, a photograph, a paperweight, can transform from everyday reality into an integral part of art itself.

Bella Baird and Christopher Dunn could very well be people we barely notice walking down the street—yet as the story of their relationship, with all its quiet twists and turns, becomes increasingly complex, we find the more we know them, the more mysterious they become.

And, as in experiencing any great story, *The Sound Inside* unfolds in the space between the written, or in this case, the spoken word, and our individual as well as our collective imaginations. As we recognize and empathize with these characters, as we experience the naked truth of their existence, as we're surprised by the unpredictability of their encounters, we're drawn into recognizing and encountering ourselves, in all our simple complexity and our complex simplicity.

Such is the magic and mystery of art, of theatre, of *The Sound Inside*.



Sabin Epstein  
*The Sound Inside* Director

## GO DEEPER

To learn more about *The Sound Inside*, go to our Go Deeper section on the Curious website at [CuriousTheatre.org/event/the-sound-inside](https://CuriousTheatre.org/event/the-sound-inside) or scan this QR code.



SCAN ME

# CURIOUS THEATRE COMPANY

PRESENTS

## THE SOUND INSIDE

by Adam Rapp

Directed by **Sabin Epstein** \*\*

### CAST

Bella: *Diana Dresser*\*  
Christopher: *Mikah Conway*

### PRODUCTION TEAM

*Set Design by* **Chip Walton**  
*Costume Design by* Janice Benning Lacek  
*Lighting Design by* Jon Dunkle  
*Sound Design by* Ashley Campbell  
*Props Design by* Wayne Breyer  
*Stage Manager,* **Lisa Boehm**  
*Assistant Stage Manager,* Anna-Marie Monzon  
*Board Operator,* Nick Luecking  
*Scenic Construction,* Roy MacFarlane

**The production will be performed without an intermission.**

Original Broadway Production Produced by Jeffrey Richards, Lincoln Center Theater, Rebecca Gold, Evamere Entertainment, Eric Falkenstein, Salman Vienn Al-Rashid, Spencer Ross, FilmNation Entertainment/Faliro House, Jane Bergère, Caiola Productions, Mark S. Golub and David S. Golub, Ken Greiner, Gemini Theatrical Investors, Scott H. Mauro, Jayne Baron Sherman, Czekaj Productions, Wendy Morgan-Hunter, Kristin Foster, Jacob Soroken Porten, and Williamstown Theatre Festival, Mandy Greenfield, Artistic Director.

The World Premiere of THE SOUND INSIDE was produced by Williamstown Theatre Festival in July 2018.  
THE SOUND INSIDE was originally commissioned by Lincoln Center Theater.

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**Bold** = Curious Artistic Company Member

\*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

\*\*Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society



# BIOS



**Mikah Conway** (Christopher) This is Mikah's first show with Curious Theatre Company. He graduated from the University of Denver in 2020 with a degree in theatre, and after almost two full years without live theater, he's extremely excited to be back on

stage. Mikah has performed in more than 30 staged and filmed productions, including *The Misanthrope* in 2018 at the University of Denver, also directed by Sabin Epstein. However, while Mikah has worked on various professional film sets, this is his debut in professional theater. Mikah has a personal connection to the heavier content of *The Sound Inside*, so it is particularly special to him for this to be his first professional show. He hopes that this will be the first of many professional productions and that he will always be able to continue to make important and impactful art.



**Diana Dresser** (Bella) Diana is thrilled to be back at Curious, where previously she appeared in *Frozen* and numerous Denver Stories. Other credits include *Anna Karenina*, *The Wild Party*, *Sweet & Lucky*, *All the Way*, and *Jackie and Me* at the Denver Center Theatre Company;

*10 Myths on the Proper Application of Beauty Products* at Buntport Theater, and *Tiny Beautiful Things* and *Stupid F\*\*\*ing Bird* at BETC. Diana spent 17 seasons at Creede Repertory Theatre, appearing in more than 40 productions and directing and choreographing many others. She also has appeared with the Arvada Center, Theatre Aspen, and Theatre de la Jeune Lune. Diana is a realtor, a corporate

communications coach, and she works with incarcerated populations through the University of Denver's Prison Arts Initiative.

**Sabin Epstein** (Director) has been a Resident Director for the American Conservatory Theatre (A.C.T., San Francisco), Georgia Shakespeare Festival (Atlanta), and *A Noise Within* (Los Angeles). He has been a Guest Director for the Alabama, Oregon, Santa Fe and Southwest Shakespeare Festivals, the Juilliard School (Drama Division), the Guthrie Theatre Actor Training Program and the Denver Center Theatre Company, among others. As an educator, he was Head of Performance Skills for the National Theatre Conservatory (Denver), Head of Acting for the Old Globe/University of San Diego MFA Actor Training Program (San Diego), Conservatory Director for the American Conservatory Theatre Actor Training Program and an Adjunct Instructor at the University of Southern California. He was the creative consultant on Curious productions of Tony Kushner's *The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures*, as well as Josh Harmon's *Admissions*. He has also been a mentor/director for the Curious New Voices program. He is co-author of *Acting with Style*, published by Allyn & Bacon.

**Lisa Boehm** (Stage Manager) is an Artistic Company member at Curious Theatre Company and was last (not) seen in the booth for *Building the Wall*. At Curious she has stage managed 20+ main-stage shows (favorites include *Coyote on a Fence*, *An Almost Holy Picture*, and *The Denver Project*) as well as several touring shows, Denver Stories

# B IOS

and Curious New Voices. She also stage managed at Theatreworks, Theatre Aspen, Avenue Theater, DCPA's National Theatre Conservatory and Denver Center Theatre Academy. Lisa is also the Finance Manager for Curious.

**Wayne Breyer** (Prop Designer) is designing his second show at Curious having recently designed props for *The Lifespan of a Fact*. He has also done prop work for Vintage Theatre, Phamaly Theatre Company, and Red Rocks Community College's Theatre Department. Wayne is also a stage manager whose most recent credits include *Eddie and Dave*, *Land of Milk and Honey* and *The Whiskey Tasting* at The Catamounts, and *Queens Girl in the World* at The Aurora Fox. Wayne trained as an apprentice with the Denver Center Theatre Company and is an associate company member of The Catamounts.

**Ashley Campbell** (Sound Designer) is excited to be back in the theatre working with Curious. Her previous credits with Curious include *The Thanksgiving Play* and *The Humans*. Her other Colorado theatre credits include *Camp Christmas* (DCPA Off Center & Hanzon Studios), *The Revolutionists* (BETC), *The Wolves* (BETC), *Tiny Beautiful Things* (BETC), *1984* (Benchmark), *JQA* (BETC) to name a few. She graduated from the University of Denver in 2017 and gives ghost tours around Denver as her day job.

**Jon Dunkle** (Lighting Designer) is a Colorado based designer, manager, and educator with credits and professional connections on Broadway and Off, with national and international tours, dance, concerts, special events, as well as television and architecture. This is

Jon's Curious Theatre Company debut, and has worked with other local companies including LOCAL Theatre Company, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, and Opera Colorado. Prior to arriving in Colorado, Jon was a member of the Production and Design faculty at NYU Tisch School of the Arts and was production manager at NYU's Jack H. Skirball Center for the Performing Arts. He is also the production manager for the Colorado Shakespeare Festival. [www.jonnydunkle.info](http://www.jonnydunkle.info).

**Janice Benning Lacek** (Costume Design) *The Sound Inside* marks Janice's 21st Curious production since 1999—most recently *The Lifespan of a Fact*. National credits: *Marisol*, *The Swan*, *What the Butler Saw* (La Jolla Playhouse); *Scapin* (ACT); *Goodnight, Desdemona...* (San Diego Rep); *Revenger's Tragedy* (Sledgehammer Theatre); *Pair of Threes* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); *Cymbeline* (Utah Shakespearean Festival); *All's Well* (Great River Shakespeare Festival); *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Henry V*, *Tempest*, *Midsummer*, *Twelfth Night* (Tennessee Shakespeare Company); *Richard II*, *12th Night*, *As You Like It* (CSF); *Fences* (Lone Tree Arts Ctr) MFA: UC San Diego. She is a professor of costume design & technology at the University of Denver.

**Anna-Marie Monzon** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a theatre designer, manager, and proud Denver native. She earned a BFA for Theatre Design, Tech, and Management from the University of Colorado, Boulder and Master's with Merit from Goldsmiths, University of London in World Theatres. Productions that she has designed for include *The Little Mermaid*, *Newsies*, and *Always Patsy Cline*. Her

# BIOS

Master's degree focused on indigenous theatre forms and how they have been impacted by cultural trauma such as slavery, colonialism, and the Holocaust, so the mission of diversity at Curious is one that resonates deeply.

**Chip Walton** (Producing Artistic Director & Scenic Design) co-founded Curious Theatre Company in 1997 and has served as Producing Artistic Director for the entire history of the organization. Named Denver's "2005 Theatre Person of the Year," he has directed more than fifty shows for Curious over the past 24 years and his work has garnered more than 100 local and national awards. In 2008, Curious was honored with the Mayor's Award for Excellence in the Arts. Chip has served as the President and Vice President of the National New Play Network, a network of professional, non-profit theatres across the country dedicated to the development and production of new plays for the American theatre. Chip was also selected in the inaugural class of the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Livingston Fellows, recognizing exceptional non-profit leaders with significant potential for contribution, change and leadership in Colorado's nonprofit sector; additionally, he served on the Board of Directors of the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation as their first Community Trustee. Chip has participated in the Visiting Professionals program at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, as well as serving on the Leadership Group for Imagine 2020: Creating a Future for Denver's Culture. He has directed in the National New Play Network Showcase of New Plays, the Kennedy Center's MFA Playwriting Festival in Washington, D.C., and accepted a National Theatre Company Award in New York for Curious from the prestigious American Theatre

Wing. Most recently, Chip was honored to serve as a 2017 Aspen Ideas Festival Speaker.

**Actors' Equity Association** ("AEA" or "Actors' Equity"), founded in 1913, represents more than 49,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. [www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org)

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## COMPANY

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—Pam Smith, Curious Supporter

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