



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:

Jordyn Chelf, Marketing Associate
Theater at Monmouth | 207.933.2952
jordyn@theateratmonmouth.org

***Sofonisba*, a Play about the Hunger for Creation, Birth and Art,
and the Very Real Cost of Both at Theater at Monmouth**

Monmouth, Maine – Theater at Monmouth presents Callie Kimball’s *Sofonisba*, the final opening of seven shows making up its *(R)evolutionary Redux* Summer Season. Michelangelo’s 27-year-old apprentice, Sofonisba Anguissola, boards a ship from Italy to become the first female court painter for King Philip II. Her 20 years at the Spanish Court are one long chess match, played for and against the expectations of King, Bishop, Fool, Knight, and 14-year-old Queen. The negotiations and sacrifices she makes in service to her art and her heart reveal the dangerous waters of court politics for an unmarried, headstrong woman. Embark on a voyage of discovery with *Sofonisba*, Thursday, July 29 at 7:30 p.m. through Saturday, August 21 including matinee and evening performances on both weekdays and weekends.

Playwright Callie Kimball centers the story around the friendship between Sofonisba and the young Queen Isabel. Both facing the limits of their gender, and the duty of creation, one with her portraiture, the other for a male-heir; the two women find solace and love with one another amidst the tumultuous landscape of the Spanish Court.

Reflecting on why she was first drawn to the play, Director Dawn McAndrews explains, “While there has never been a period in Western history in which women were completely absent in the visual arts, Sofonisba’s artistry and success blazed a trail (on her own terms) for greater numbers of women to pursue serious careers as artists.” McAndrew continues, “Sofonisba herself once said, ‘Life is full of surprises, I try to capture these precious moments with wide eyes.’ Thanks to the brilliance of Kimball’s words, I hope we have captured the quiet brilliance of Sofonisba and offered you a glimpse into her world through wide eyes.”

Kimball, has been living with Sofonisba for some time now,” I stumbled across the paintings of Sofonisba Anguissola in college purely by chance. I found her portraits arresting because her subjects seemed to hold so much in reserve. They all had such poise and seemed to carry secrets; their glances were oblique. At the time, I hadn’t yet discovered playwriting. I was writing a lot of poetry that was inspired by paintings, but more than ten years went by before I felt ready to try to write about her work. That’s how intimidated I was by her art.”

She continues, “Her life story, just from what little we know about her, touches on so many fascinating themes—making sacrifices for her art, being transplanted to a new country, navigating court politics, struggling with a new language, protecting her standing as a woman artist, respecting the role of the Catholic church in terms of her work...it just goes on and on. I also juxtaposed her with the young Queen Isabel, whose work was creating heirs, in contrast to Anguissola’s work creating portraits.”



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Sofonisba features Henry Hetz as Bishop/ Don Francisco, Amber McNew as Sofonisba, Sophia Mobbs as Isabella, Michael Rosas as Fool and Reece Santos as King Phillip/ Orazio. Directed by Dawn McAndrews; Set design by German Cardenas-Alaminos, Costume Design by Michelle Handley, Lighting Design by Jennifer Fok, Sound Design by Rew Tippin, Stage Management by Kailey Pelletier and Asst. Stage Management by Ty Bolduc.

Performance Calendar: OPENING 7/29 at 7:30 p.m.; additional performance dates 7/30, 8/5, 8/7, 8/11, 8/17, 8/19 at 7:30 p.m., 8/8, 8/21 at 1:00 p.m.

Engagement Programs

Post-Performance Discussions. For 2021 Post-Performance Discussions will be pre-recorded and audiences will be able to stream the content before or after their selected dates. Discussions with the cast and creative team will cover the critical historical, artistic, and cultural perspectives of the worlds of each individual play.

Tickets, Subscriptions, and Ways to Save. A TAM subscription offers the greatest savings and exclusive benefits like priority seating and ticket exchanges. Gold, Flex, General, or Senior Passes are available for purchase, so whether you want a ticket for each show or five tickets to one show, there's an option for you. Single tickets for the Summer Repertory and Fall Plays are \$36 for adults, \$31 for senior citizens, and \$22 for students (18 and under). Family Show tickets are \$17 for adults, \$12 for children. Due to limited capacity this year, individual tickets must be bought at a minimum of two tickets.

Opening Nights are Educator Nights. Educators receive 20% off the general ticket price with a valid photo ID at the Box Office.

Individual Day-Of Tickets: To help with capacity limits, Theater at Monmouth is restricting the purchase of one individual ticket to day of show. Please call the Box Office at 207.933.9999 to purchase these tickets.

For calendar and reservations, please contact the TAM Box Office at 207.933.9999 or visit www.theateratmonmouth.org.

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Theater at Monmouth, founded in 1970, was named the Shakespearean Theater of Maine by the State Legislature in 1975. The theatre's mission is to present innovative approaches to Shakespeare and other classic plays through professional productions that enrich the lives of people throughout Maine. Since its founding, TAM has produced expertly crafted, engaging productions in its three-month Summer Repertory Season entertaining audiences from 36 states and through Education Tours annually reaching more than 15,000 students statewide.

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