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"Remember the ladies."  
- Abigail Adams, *46 Plays for America's First Ladies*  
playing Oct 1-16, 2022

MINNEAPOLIS, MN - Theatre Pro Rata is producing *46 Plays for America's First Ladies* Written by Geneva Gallo-Bayiates, Sharon Greene, Chloe Johnston, Bilal Dardai, and Andy Bayiates at The Crane Theater this October under the direction of Shanan Custer. Following our productions of *44 Plays for 44 Presidents*, (2012) and the remounted and updated *45 Plays for 45 Presidents* (2016), we have a 'hot off the press' and unpublished *46 Plays for America's First Ladies*. 46 short plays (dramas, comedies, even mini-musicals) span each of the First Ladies, from Martha Washington to Jill Biden. It's simultaneously historical, poignant, educational, silly, and inspiring.

\* Read more on page 2.\*

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### ***46 Plays for America's First Ladies***

written by Geneva Gallo-Bayiates, Sharon Greene, Chloe Johnston, Bilal Dardai, and Andy Bayiates

Opening: Saturday, October 1 @ 7:30 p.m.

Closing: Sunday, October 16 @ 3:00 p.m.

Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays @ 7:30 p.m.

ASL/Audio Description on Sunday, October 2 @ 7:30pm.

Pay What You Can (min. \$5) on Monday, October 3 @ 7:30 p.m.

\* A detailed performance schedule is included on page 4 \*

Tickets for all Theatre Pro Rata productions are **\$16 - \$61** (sliding scale) and must be purchased in advance:  
[theatreproprata.org/box-office/](http://theatreproprata.org/box-office/)

Playing at The Crane Theater:

2303 Kennedy Street NE | Minneapolis, MN 55413

Directions, parking, and public transportation options information: [www.cranetheater.com/venue/location](http://www.cranetheater.com/venue/location)

COVID-19 Protocols:

Theatre Pro Rata requires photo ID and Proof of Full Vaccination or a negative Covid test within 72 hours for all audience members, staff, and artists. Proof of Full Vaccination can be your vaccination card, a photo of your vaccination card, or a digital record of your vaccination on a smart phone app.

\* More information about Theatre Pro Rata's COVID safety protocols is posted online \*

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## ABOUT THE PLAY - [from the playwrights](#):

“A RELENTLESS SKETCH COMEDY FLIPBOOK” - JESSE GREEN’S CRITIC’S PICK IN THE NEW YORK TIMES!

“CONSISTENTLY CREATIVE, INVENTIVE AND ADMIRABLY AVOIDANT OF THE PREDICTABLE”- CHRIS JONES, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

“...A MARVELOUSLY CREATIVE COMPENDIUM OF 45 PLAYLETS... ‘FIRST LADIES’ IS AS IMMEDIATE AS ANYTHING CAN BE FROM A SOCIAL DISTANCE.” - CATEY SULLIVAN, CHICAGO SUN TIMES

**46 Plays for America’s First Ladies** leaps from comic to tragic as it surveys the lives of the women who have served (and avoided serving) as first lady, from Martha to Melania. A biographical, meta-theatrical, genre-bending ride through race, gender, and everything else your history teacher never taught you about the founding of America.

*46 Plays for America’s First Ladies* is a companion piece to the past Neo-Futurist script *43 Plays for 43 Presidents* [originally produced in 2004, and remounted in 2012 as *44 Plays for 44 Presidents* and re-published as *45 Plays for 45 Presidents* in 2019]. Focusing this time on the women who served in the role of First Lady, this play follows an identical format as its predecessor, with a chronological series of 1-5 minute plays that - in typical Neo style - adopt a variety of shapes, tones, and theatrical conventions. Instead of simply reciting biographies, however, this project uses the “honorary” office of First Lady as a lens to examine the roles that not only women but other marginalized individuals have played in the development of America. The story that emerges from telling all these stories at once shows how often people have gone unrecognized and unrewarded - and how vital their contributions have been.

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## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Theatre Pro Rata’s production of **46 Plays for America’s First Ladies** is directed by Shanan Custer\* (she/her), with music direction by Rhiannon Fiskradatz, choreography by Erinn Leibhard, video design by Todd Edwards (he/him), costume design by Mandi Johnson (she/her/they/them), lighting design by Alex Clark (he/him), sound design by Jake Davis\* (he/him), properties design by Madeline Achen (she/her), stage management by Clara Costello\* (she/her), and assistant direction by Julie Philips. The play features Christy Johnson (she/her), Heather Meyer (she/her), Nissa Nordland Morgan\* (she/her), Sif Oberon (they/them), and Anjeline Ramirez (she/her).

“We are excited to be back in The Crane Theater again after our successful run of *Top Girls* in November, 2021 and *Orlando* in March, 2022,” says Artistic Director Carin Bratlie Wethern. “Thanks to the hard work of our Board, Company, Cast, and Production Team we were able to create a safe and enjoyable experience for our artists and audiences. We are taking what we have learned so far, and staying attuned to updates and recommendations from the CDC and the WHO in order to continue to produce our work in the safest way possible.” More information about Theatre Pro Rata’s health and safety policies for artists and audiences is posted at <https://www.theatreporata.org/tpr-policies/>

\*Indicates a member of the Theatre Pro Rata company.

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## A NOTE ABOUT LANGUAGE

The cast of **46 Ladies** includes performers who are gender non-binary and transgender, and the structure of the play has all of the performers playing characters of all different genders. We have noted the artists’

gender pronouns in our cast and creative team lists. When writing about the work of a specific performer or designer we ask that you use their listed pronouns; when writing about one of the characters within the play you may use the pronouns appropriate for that character – for example, she/her for Mary Lincoln or he/him for Abraham Lincoln.

If you have any questions, please contact Artistic Director Carin Bratlie Wethern, [Carin@TheatreProRata.org](mailto:Carin@TheatreProRata.org)

More information about They/Them Pronouns: [www.mypronouns.org/they-them](http://www.mypronouns.org/they-them)

Tips for covering Trans and Non-binary people: [www.cjr.org/analysis/trans-nonbinary-subject-tips.php](http://www.cjr.org/analysis/trans-nonbinary-subject-tips.php)

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## PRESS PHOTO

*Promotional photos are available for media use at <http://theatreprorata.org/press/>*

Pictured - Sif Oberon, Christy Johnson, Heather Meyer, Nissa Nordland Morgan, Anjeline Ramirez

Photo Credit - Scott Pakudaitis

Graphic Design - Max Lindorfer

Production photos will be available Sept 31, 2022

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## ABOUT THEATRE PRO RATA

Since 2001 Pro Rata, Latin for "in proportion," has produced smart, vivid, varied, and gutsy theater in the Twin Cities. Focusing on the text of the play, the company offers performers and audiences the chance to engage with the characters, themes, and language more completely. Over the past 20 years Pro Rata's reputation for consistent, high quality, artistically fulfilling, and meaningful theater has made it a company that artists want to work with and audiences want to see. Ranging from classic dramas to modern black comedies, Theatre Pro Rata produces scripts that bring visceral theatrical experiences to the stage.

*We are Pro Rata: we create smart, vivid, varied, and gutsy programming. As an audience member, you'll be part of moving, thought-provoking theatre.*

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This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

grant logos here:

<http://www.arts.state.mn.us/grants/support.htm>

# ***46 Plays for America's First Ladies***

performance schedule

at The Crane Theater

2303 Kennedy Street NE, #120 | Minneapolis, MN 55413

Saturday, October 1	<i>Opening</i>	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 2	<i>ASL / Audio Description</i>	7:30 p.m.
Monday, October 3	<i>Pay What You Can</i>	7:30 p.m.
Friday, October 7		7:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 8		7:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 9		7:30 p.m.
Friday, October 14		7:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 15		7:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 16	<i>Closing</i>	3:00 p.m.

TheatreProRata.org  
612-234-7135