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"Think yees all Hester Swane with her tinker blood is gettin' more than she deserves. Think yees all she's too many notions, built her life up from a caravan on the side of the bog. Well, yees are thinkin' wrong... I'm not runnin' with me tail between me legs just because certain people wants me out of their way."

- Hester Swane, *By the Bog of Cats*  
playing March 17 - April 2, 2023

MINNEAPOLIS, MN - Theatre Pro Rata is producing *By the Bog of Cats* written by Marina Carr at The Crane Theater this March under the direction of Amber Bjork. Opening on St. Patrick's Day, this is the heart-wrenching journey of Hester Swane, a woman struggling to come to terms with a lifetime of abandonment in a world where loved ones have discarded her. Loosely based on Euripides' tragedy *Medea*, this show explores identity, family, and the complexities of human relationships through the poignant and powerful portrayal of one woman's search for meaning and redemption.

\* Read more on page 2.\*

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### ***By the Bog of Cats***

written by Marina Carr

Opening: Friday, March 17 @ 7:30 p.m.

Closing: Sunday, April 2 @ 3:00 p.m.

ASL Interpretation on Saturday, March 18

Audio Description on Sunday, March 19 @ 7:30pm.

Pay What You Can (min. \$5) on Monday, March 27 @ 7:30 p.m.

**\*NEW\* Masks Required** for audiences attending Sunday performances

(Note: masks are optional at all other performances unless the CDC and/or MN Department of Health issue new recommendations or guidelines, in accordance to the Theatre Pro Rata COVID-19 Action Plan)

\* 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)

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## ABOUT THE PLAY

*By the Bog of Cats* by Marina Carr premiered at Dublin's Abbey Theatre in 1998. In the 25 years since its premiere, the play has been produced countless times in Ireland, England, and throughout the United States; in 2004 it was produced in London's West End at Wyndham's Theatre with Holly Hunter in the lead role of Hester Swane, and in 2009 Frank Theatre produced *By the Bog of Cats* in the Dowling Studio at the Guthrie in Minneapolis.

The play takes place in the Irish Midlands in an unspecified time in the modern era. It is loosely based on the Greek myth *Medea*. In this myth, the sorceress Medea marries the hero Jason and has two children with him. When Jason leaves her for another woman, Medea kills their children, Jason's new bride, and the bride's father. *By the Bog of Cats* contains many mystical and mythical elements, including ghosts, curses, and references to witchcraft. It includes themes of land ownership, motherhood, betrayal/abandonment, and ethnic prejudice. Kerry Reid, of the Chicago Tribune, noted in her review of the 2017 production at Chicago's Artistic Home Theater that what makes the play distinct from Euripides's adaptation, and what makes it distinctly Irish, is the themes of displacement and disposition. However, the heightened emotions and broad, existential themes of "love and hate, hope and despair, [and] grief and revenge" justify the comparisons of these two tragedies.

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## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Theatre Pro Rata's production of *By the Bog of Cats* is directed by Amber Bjork, with stage management by Clara Costello\*, scenic design by MJ Leffler\*, costume design by Mandi Johnson, lighting design by Emmet Kowler, sound design by Jake Davis\*, props design by Madeline Achen, dialect coaching from Keely Wolter, fight choreography by Carin Bratlie Wethern\*, and assistant scenic design by Antonia Perez. The cast features Emily Grodzik as Hester Swane, Raúl Arámbula as Carthage Kilbride, Kayla Dvorak Feld as Josie Kilbride, Jean Wolff as Mrs. Kilbride, Nissa Nordland Morgan\* as Caroline Cassidy, Sean Dillon as Xavier Cassidy, Hawken Paul as Joseph Swane, Lynda J. Dahl\* as Monica Murray, Meri Golden as Catwoman, Andrew Troth\* as Father Willow, and Jonathan Feld as the Ghost Fancier and Waiter

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

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## PRESS PHOTO

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

Pictured - Emily Grodzik

Photo Credit - Scott Pakudaitis; Graphic Design - Max Lindorfer

Production photos will be available March 20, 2023

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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 Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

grant logos here: <https://mrac.org/manage-my-grant/grant-acknowledgement/>

# ***By the Bog of Cats***

performance schedule

at The Crane Theater

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

Friday, March 17	<i>Opening</i>	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 18	<i>ASL Interpretation</i>	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 19	<i>Audio Description Masks Required</i>	7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 24		7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 25		7:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 26	<i>Masks Required</i>	7:30 p.m.
Monday, March 27	<i>Pay What You Can</i>	7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 31		7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 1		7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 2	<i>Closing Masks Required</i>	3:00 p.m.

TheatreProRata.org

612-234-7135