



- * Nominated for 4 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards including **BEST PRODUCTION!** (*Hamilton* won). Nominated for 7 Stage Raw Awards.
- * Part of The Theatre @ Boston Court's 2017 Polly Warfield Award-winning season.
- * **Ovation Recommended!**

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

"A heart given away can be tough to recover — a risk explored with considerable charm... Lederer's dialogue is laced with sophisticated poetry and wry insight into the isolation faced by a generation for whom the meaning of "friend"-ship has been devalued by social media... Unabashedly romantic, this one actually wears its heart on its narrative sleeve."

[FULL REVIEW HERE](#)

LA WEEKLY

"Lederer's wit and poetic language, along with Kubzansky's directorial finesse and state-of-the-art staging, make for a beguiling evening of theater....**GO!**"

[FULL REVIEW HERE](#)

ON STAGE AND SCREEN

"Lederer has managed to take themes as old as time and find a new, modern spin that exudes charm from start to finish...funny, moving, astute... what's not to love?"

[FULL REVIEW HERE](#)

STAGE STRUCK REVIEW:

"...an intricate dance of feeling and separation, empathy and distance, enthusiastic embracing of the world and deadened indifference to input, they illustrate – in fascinatingly, symbolically graphic ways, the complexity of the human heart... What then could be more important than seeing a play like *With Love and a Major Organ*, with its insistence that one's heart, in real time, is central to everything."

[FULL REVIEW HERE](#)

STAGE SCENE LA:

“Whimsical, magical, and authentically real in its depiction of the vagaries of the human heart, *With Love And A Major Organ* will likely touch anyone’s major organ provided it’s neither paper nor stone. It definitely touched mine.”

[FULL REVIEW HERE](#)

ADDITIONAL LOS ANGELES PRODUCTION PRESS:

THE DAILY BRUIN:

“It’s about having the bravery to trespass into someone else’s heart and actually connect on a human level.”

[FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

BETTER LEMONS:

“At its core, *With Love and a Major Organ* is a deeply romantic play which should appeal to theater-goers looking to feed the heart without ignoring the mind.”

[FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

PRESS RELEASE:

[WITH LOVE AND A MAJOR ORGAN to Make West Coast Debut at Boston Court](#)

PRODUCTION WEBSITE:

[With Love and a Major Organ at The Theatre @ Boston Court](#)

[With Love and a Major Organ](#) is being adapted and developed as a feature film at the **Canadian Film Centre in Toronto, as part of the 2018 Director’s Lab.**

Boston Court explores an unusual metaphor for love with its new play ‘With Love and a Major Organ’

Posted by Carl Kozlowski | Sep 28, 2017

It’s always risky to give one’s heart to another when falling in love. But in the new play “With Love and a Major Organ” by Julia Lederer, a young woman gives her actual beating heart to a man she falls in love with during her morning commute on the subway— and then has to embark on a quest to retrieve it when he suddenly disappears.

The eccentric, edgy comedy seeks to make audiences consider the effect that our modern age of technology is having on the phenomenon of physical human interaction. For director Jessica Kubzansky, who’s helming the production as it opens tonight and runs through Nov. 5, the play’s “beautiful use of language and quirky, really original voice” caught her attention.

“I absolutely loved Julia’s voice, because she’s a poet for the theater, which is usually one of the first things that attracts me to a piece,” says Kubzansky. “This woman gives the man her actual beating heart as a kind of grand gesture. At the same time, his mother has an online therapist called Google Shrink who is suggesting that she actually go on speed dating events, which she’s doing virtually.

“There’s this really interesting contrast about meeting someone face to face on a subway, and meeting people virtually, which in some ways is extremely safe because you never have to actually interact with them personally,” she continues. “These days, it is absolutely the norm to meet people in a virtual environment. Teens and millennials only text and they think it’s weird to speak voice to voice on the phone. They notice enough to take a picture and post it on social media but not see the actual event, and that’s a profound comment on where we are as a society today.”

Actress Bonita Friedericy plays the young man’s mother, with “Major” marking her sixth stage collaboration with Kubzansky. She notes that she and the director seek out “language-driven pieces,” and also enjoys the fact “there’s a magical element to a lot of her sets and shows.”

Friedericy finds “Major” intriguing because of its colorful central metaphor, yet finds that the play is extremely prescient due to the fact that Lederer wrote it in 2013, before virtual speed dating even existed.

“It’s about the depth of caring we can have for each other, and we’ve become a society that’s very plugged into our devices, asking if this is a good thing or not a good thing or a little bit of both,” says Friedericy. “She doesn’t make sweeping judgments about things, and invites them to look into it in depth.

“That’s one reason I loved [the John Patrick Shanley play] ‘Doubt,’ an interesting exploration of perception and what’s right and what’s wrong,” Friedericy adds. “This has very heightened language, but it’s whimsical and makes me laugh. If I can remember something because I cry and it also makes me laugh, it makes me happy.”

PRODUCTION PHOTOS

THE THEATRE @ BOSTON COURT, L.A. (SEPT. 28TH- NOV. 5TH, 2017)

Directed by Jessica Kubzansky

Actors: Bonita Friedericy, Daisuke Tsuji, & Paige Lindsey White

Photography by Jenny Graham



"I don't know if I love you, but I have come to care very deeply for your heart."

- George



"I had no idea there were so many other lost hearts around town, in bicycle baskets and laundered pockets; acting as the insoles of shoes.

Don't get mine mixed up.

My heart likes long massages and The Golden Girls."

- Anabel, With Love and a Major Organ

"Our lives run together perfectly while in transit. Neither of us trip when the subway starts and stops, shifting weight from leg to leg in time together, like we're waltzing."

- Anabel



"I don't think it's possible to talk adequately about feelings using words. Maybe that's why we never did." - George



OTHER PRODUCTIONS:

BOISE CONTEMPORARY THEATRE, BOISE, IDAHO (DEC. 5TH- 22ND, 2018)



AMERICAN THEATER

“During a time of such upheaval in our world it feels right that BCT would be pulled toward stories like these that acknowledge the complexities of contemporary life, while shining a light on openhearted hope.”

-- Matthew Cameron Clark, Artistic Director

[FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

STAGE BROADWAY WORLD: BOISE

“Julia Lederer's script was beautiful and original. Poetic and heartbreaking....a production you don't want to miss.” [FULL REVIEW HERE](#)

The Boise Contemporary Theatre’s production was the first to have a cast of three women. The promotional film can be viewed below:

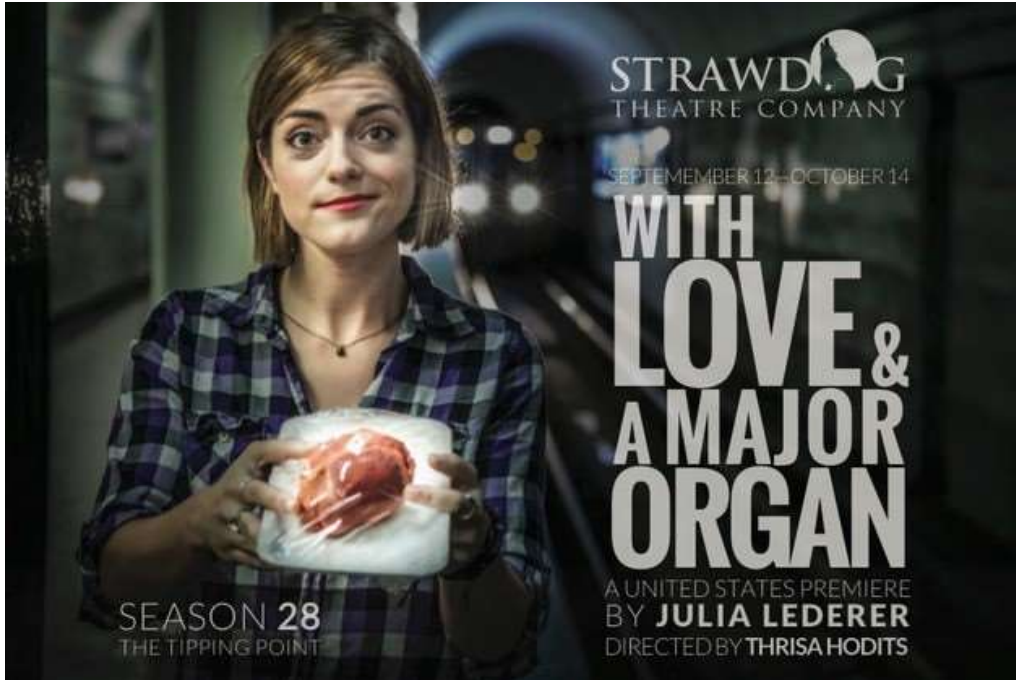


Video by: Cody Gittings

Music by: Riley Anne Johnson

STRAWDOG THEATRE COMPANY, CHICAGO (SEPT. 12TH- OCT. 14TH, 2015)

Photography by John Cole (Actor: Abby Pierce)



NEWCITY STAGE:

“RECOMMENDED... a show that stands out above the others... With Love and a Major Organ is just about perfect... rises to a rare level of universal truth, all while making us laugh. A lot.”

[FULL REVIEW HERE](#)

CRAIN’S CHICAGO:

“Theater that lets go of realism and embraces the joys of language.... wonderfully weird, piercingly poetic and unexpectedly moving...afterward you may feel, as I did, a deep need to talk to someone about the play. Isn't that what theater should do?”

[FULL REVIEW HERE](#)

CHICAGO STAGE STANDARD:

“Lederer has a deliciously twisted way with words.... [With Love and a Major Organ] transposes the magical realism of Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Salvador Plascencia onto a 21st century romantic comedy... genuinely original... a dead sprint and the end result is pure elation mixed with a bit of dry heaving.”

One of THEATRE BY NUMBERS Top 5 Productions of the Year (Chicago, 2015):

"The major accomplishment of this production is to accurately and imaginatively capture the feelings of falling in love. It is disorienting, funny, exhilarating, frustrating, and beautiful".

[FULL LIST](#)

**NEXT STAGE THEATRE FESTIVAL, BEST OF FRINGE (TORONTO CENTRE FOR THE ARTS),
TORONTO FRINGE FESTIVAL (2012/13)**



AWARDS:

“Outstanding New Play” &
“Outstanding Production”
(NOW Magazine)

“Best of the Fringe” (Toronto Fringe)

* awarded an extended run at the
Toronto Centre for the Arts

NOW MAGAZINE:

"A brash, poetic and fiercely original voice that's equal parts pee-your-pants funny and get-out-that-Kleenex poignant...Keep your eye on Lederer, whose got huge potential."

NNNNN/5

TORONTOIST:

"Delightfully absurd... endlessly quotable... poetic, playful, and wholly original... worth lining up hours to see." *****/5

FULL REVIEW HERE

MOONEY ON THEATRE:

"There's a very good reason that WITH LOVE AND A MAJOR ORGAN sold out basically every single show.....The language Lederer uses in her dialogue is both poetic and accessible, entangling both charm and humour together."

FULL REVIEW HERE

OTHER:

With Love and a Major Organ is the only Canadian play to be featured as a production at **The Last Frontier Theatre Conference** in Valdez, Alaska (in its 25th year/June 2017).

It is also the first Canadian play to be produced at **The Theatre @ Boston Court**.

It is a comedy with drama that runs 85 minutes with a cast of 3. All character ages, ethnicities, and genders, are open. Funny, romantic, and honest, it's a fable for the modern age about how difficult it is to give your heart away and what it's like to realise that you have one.