

2017 Black Box Theatre Repertory Series

LYNNE COLLINS

Artistic Director, (Plays)

THE DROWNING GIRLS

Welcome to the regional premiere of *The Drowning Girls!* It is a particular pleasure to present a play that is a new experience for both the artists and audiences at the Arvada Center. Written by Canadian playwrights Beth Graham, Charlie Tomlinson and Daniela Vlaskalic in 2011, this jewel of a play uses the true crime story called the Brides in the Bath Murders of the early 20th century as its subject, but rather than a realistic telling of the story, the playwrights have created a kind of ethereal docudrama, doing what theatre does best, presenting a world that includes both artists and audiences in an imaginary journey.

These three women tell their stories and come to terms with how and why they gave up their money, power and ultimately their lives. By joining together in what could be a sisterhood of victims,

the three women find their voices and fight back with anger, humor and imagination against both the man who victimized them and a world that could only pity or ignore them without the magic Mrs. in front of their names to make them legitimate. This is a powerful statement about the power of storytelling.

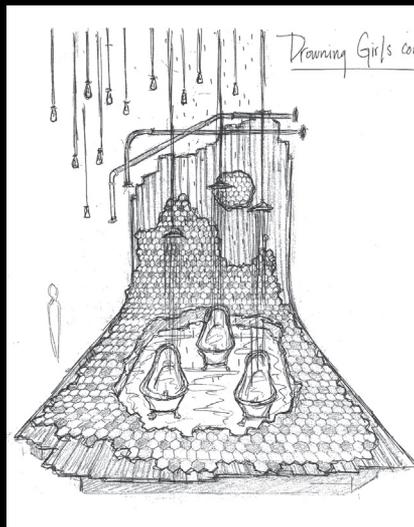
This is a play that showcases three talented actors and celebrates what an ensemble can be. Those of you who saw *Tartuffe* and *Bus Stop*, will see these women transform into unique and very different people in all three plays and into dozens of different characters in *The Drowning Girls*.

“...the playwrights have created a kind of ethereal docudrama...”

Visually, it invites us into a kind of watery purgatory, which was one of the reasons it caught our eye as we began to plan the season.

Creating the sets, costumes, lights and sound for this play was an exciting challenge for us, and a chance to transform the Black Box into a very new environment for our audience. When so much of the world comes to us from behind a sterile television, computer or cell phone screen, this is a play that invites us to lean in and engage all of our senses.

We invite you to take a deep breath with us and plunge into *The Drowning Girls*.



Preliminary scenic sketch by Brian Mallgrave 2017



Costume design by Meghan Anderson Doyle 2017

