LIVE ARTS THEATER
Forging Ahead Season | 2020-2021

LET GO OF ME
A NEW WORK BY KELLEY VAN DILLA
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volunteers, patrons, and community partners!
LET GO OF ME
A new work by Kelley Van Dilla

MARCH 25-28, 2021

Presented with technical assistance from LIGHT HOUSE STUDIO

The performance will last approximately 2 hours.
There will be one 10-minute intermission.

Study Guide
Find the synopsis, dramaturg's notes, an interview with Playwright and Director Kelley Van Dilla, and much more in the LET GO OF ME online Study Guide. Click here to read it!

Virtual Talkback: April 14 at 7pm
You're invited to a live talkback with the cast and crew of LET GO OF ME! The talkback will be hosted as a free Zoom Webinar facilitated by Education Director Miller Susen. RSVP and submit questions using this form!

Gratitude Board
C&N Custom Carpentry | Stace Carter | Charlottesville Ballet Academy City Clay | Coe Sweet Photography | Steve Donahue | Daryl Freimark Jack Looney Photography | Alex Levy | Mike Masure | Sophie Mitchell Harry Moxley | The Paramount | Clare Redden | Annie Roberts Ted Schaefer | Silver Streak Media | Silverthorn Film | Kris Stone Rod Temmink and Centerline Construction | Laura Van Dilla
CAST

Daphne                  MARTY MOORE
Ashley (Now)            KELLEY VAN DILLA
Ashley (Then)           OLIVIA RAMÍREZ-WEAVER
The Chorus              SAM FISHER
                         MATTEA GAINES
                         SHARON LAWLER
                         AYANA MARCUS
                         ERIC RAMÍREZ-WEAVER
                         LIZ RAMÍREZ-WEAVER
                         ELIZABETH ROSE

PRODUCTION TEAM

Playwright/Director      KELLEY VAN DILLA
Associate Director       JEREMY DUNCAN PAPE
Producer                 KEN FERGUSON
Production Stage Manager OPAL LECHMANSKI
Assistant Stage Managers SHARON LAWLER
                         ERIC RAMÍREZ-WEAVER
                         LIZ RAMÍREZ-WEAVER
Director of Technology   KATHLEEN MUELLER
Costume Designer         SRI KODAKALLA
Lighting Designer        JACKSON KEY
Scenic Designer          KERRY MORAN
Props Designer           MARIETTA FEIGERT
Composer                 HEATHER MEASE
Dramaturg                LEAH PUTNAM
Choreographers           AYANA MARCUS
                         ERIC RAMÍREZ-WEAVER
Light House Studio Liaison WILL GOSS
This play is me. I don’t know how else to put it.

Last fall, my dear friend Annie Temmink told me that Jeremy was looking for new local work to produce at Live Arts. I sent him a draft of LET GO OF ME from 2017 (essentially a never-edited word-vomit). We decided to bring my story to life, and I knew it needed a serious overhaul; a lot had happened to me in the last four years, not to mention being in the middle of a pandemic.

Not only are my mom and I separated by the distance of a few thousand miles (she lives in Santa Fe, NM), we also haven’t spent real physical time together in well over a year due to COVID-19 and at the time of this performance we are not on speaking terms.

She’s always told me to tell our story, and we even read parts of LET GO OF ME aloud to each other back in 2017. I wouldn’t be who I am without her, and I’m excited for her to see this when the time is right.

I love cinematic storytelling and filmmaking, and yet, for me it always seems to be much more about product than process. The privilege of working on this as a piece of live-theater means that we can focus on process and processing. After all, the process of creation is the play itself.

I’ve grown immeasurably throughout these few months, and have been given the gift of so much space, time, and energy to process who I am and what I’ve been through. I couldn’t be held by a more supportive team and I couldn’t be more proud of what we’ve created together. I hope that our story resonates with you.

Thank you to our amazing cast and production team, and to Live Arts and Light House Studio.

KELLEY VAN DILLA
Playwright and Director
LET GO OF ME at Live Arts
There is a crossroads in art that sits at the intersection of personal and universal. Occasionally, a piece comes along that exists at that exact nexus point. Kelley’s LET GO OF ME is just such a piece. (Side note: By "comes along" I mean "is created through extraordinary effort")

This gorgeous, complex, and compelling piece may seem, at first glance, to be far more personal than universal. After all, the autobiography of a non-binary trans person and their mother with bipolar disorder sounds like a very unique set of circumstances. And it is. But no more unique than each one of our own stories. Each one of us is a unique individual with a unique story, and it is through art that we can best come together in our uniqueness to celebrate and illuminate our shared truths.

From the very beginning, Kelley has approached this work with a kindness, generosity, and grace that has consistently surprised me. Their desire to strive for deeper understanding shines through this entire piece. It is not bogged down in blame and anger, though that would be completely justifiable. Art as exorcism of personal demons has a long and deep history. I am reminded of the bitterness and open wounds that define work such as LONG DAY’S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT. However, LET GO OF ME is, at its heart, aspirational and founded in a true belief that we can all do better, that we can know each other.

Our own scars become the razors that we use to cut the ones we love. This is the natural result of unexamined trauma. This examination and work is a step towards breaking that cycle. A step towards understanding.

LET GO OF ME has been a process defined by process. An act of creation that is ongoing, and that now includes you, dear community. I, for one, am overwhelmingly grateful to have been included and trusted as a member of this team, and I deeply hope that you enjoy what we have wrought.

JEREMY DUNCAN PAPE
Interim Artistic Director
Live Arts
SAM FISHER  
**CHORUS**
Sam (they/them) is a local watercolorist, photographer, and entrepreneur. They enjoy neat-looking twigs, odd clouds, and killer style. Sam is currently working on melding their figurative art roots with a dreamlike abstract surrealism.

MATTEA GAINES  
**CHORUS**
Mattea (she/her) has had an amazing experience working with Live Arts for the first time. Mattea is a 9th grader at Tandem Friends School and has been keeping busy with sports, piano, school senate, learning ASL, and participating in school theater.

SHARON LAWLER  
**CHORUS | Asst. Stage Manager**
Sharon (she/her) is honored to be a part of this creative adventure. This is her debut performance with Live Arts. Past credits include Bettie Jean in THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES and ensemble in BEAUTY AND THE BEAST at the Wayne Theater. Outside of theater, she enjoys roller skating, crafting, and hiking with her partner Mike.

AIYANA MARCUS  
**CHORUS | Choreographer**
As a programs manager for CACF, Aiyana (she/her) is fascinated by the intersection of art and community. She finds wholeness and identity through the exploration of art, spirituality, and life as a Black woman. Aiyana is a playwright, actor, director, and producer of original works, and hopes to support the journeys of other young Black female writers.

MARTY MOORE  
**DAPHNE**
Working on this project has been an honor for Marty (she/her), and she is ever grateful for the experience. She has been involved in local theater for 15+ years as a triple-threat actor, director, writer. She has also directed twice for the NYC Fringe Festival. In the non-theater world she is a photographer, gardener, mother, sister, cat keeper, and lover of life.
ERIC RAMÍREZ-WEAVER  
**CHORUS | Asst. Stage Manager | Choreographer**

Eric (he/him) performs annually in *The Nutcracker* at Charlottesville Ballet. Other CB credits include *Cinderella* (2019), *Snow White* (2020), and the concept for *Astrolabium* (2019), an original ballet choreographed by CB Co-Director Sara Clayborne. Eric's public performance art piece *Solomon’s Knot* was part of Charlottesville’s Unity Days (2019).

LIZ RAMÍREZ-WEAVER  
**CHORUS | Asst. Stage Manager**

Liz (she/her) makes her debut at Live Arts with LET GO OF ME and is thrilled to get back to her acting roots. She is a graduate of LaGuardia High School for Music and Performing Arts in New York City. Liz sings with the Charlottesville Women’s Choir and has played the Sassy Granny in Charlottesville Ballet’s *The Nutcracker* (2017, 2018).

OLIVIA RAMÍREZ-WEAVER  
**ASHLEY (THEN)**


ELIZABETH ROSE  
**CHORUS**

Elizabeth (she/her) is thrilled to work with this talented cast and crew. Acting credits from her time in NYC include Seada in NECESSARY TARGETS, Hecate in MACBETH, and improv performances at Upright Citizen’s Brigade. Elizabeth is a writer and volunteers with The Dinner Party, an organization that builds community around grief and loss.

KELLEY VAN DILLA  
**ASHLEY (NOW) | Playwright | Director**

Kelley (they/she) is a non-binary theater and film director from Santa Fe, NM and Charlottesville. They graduated from Western Albemarle High School and spent hours with Old Michie Theater, American Shakespeare Center, and Live Arts. They attended Vassar College and the Moscow Art Theatre School, co-founded Playground of Empathy in 2018, and worked on off-broadway theater, independent film, and big budget TV.
PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

MARIETTA FEIGERT
Props Designer
Marietta (they/them) is a senior at Charlottesville High School. Previous Live Arts credits include PIPPIN (light board), RENT (light board), CRY BABY (spotlight), IN THE HEIGHTS (assistant scenic designer), and MEN ON BOATS (assistant props designer). They are excited for the show and incredibly thankful for this opportunity.

KEN FERGUSON
Producer
Ken (he/him) is a long-time “arts enabler” and first-time producer who loves helping teams manifest their artistic vision. He has served in a variety of on- and off-stage roles at Live Arts over the last 15 years including actor, singer, musician, assistant and musical director, discussion moderator, tour guide, and Fringe Tech Team member.

JACKSON KEY
Lighting Designer
Jackson (he/him) is a third year architecture major at the University of Virginia from Fort Worth, TX. Select lighting design credits include: THE HUMANS (Live Arts), RENT (Live Arts), PLAYING THE GAME (Overcranked), LIGHTING OF THE LAWN 2020 (UVA), SHE KILLS MONSTERS (Associate, UVA Drama), SPRING/FALL DANCE CONCERTS (UVA Dance).

SRI KODAKALLA
Costume Designer
Sri (she/her) excitedly jumped into working costume tech at Live Arts again after working on THE ROYALE, TOP GIRLS, and previous Live Arts galas. When she’s not working tech, she works as an arts organizer and is a part-time artist and writer with a studio at McGuffey Art Center.

WILL GOSS
Light House Studio Liaison
Will (he/him) is a musician and filmmaker who works as the education director at Light House Studio. He is back at Live Arts after leading the camera crew for LOST HOME, WIN HOME and IN HINDSIGHT, MAYBE GHOSTS WERE A BAD IDEA earlier this season.

OPAL LECHMANSKI
Production Stage Manager
Opal (she/her) loves to help make theater.

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HEATHER MEASE  
Composer
Heather (they/she) is a composer and PhD student in composition and computer technologies at the University of Virginia. Previous sound design work includes #CHARLOTTESVILLE and ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM, both by Priyanka Shetty. Heather releases electronic music as "corncob." www.hmmease.com

KATHLEEN MUELLER  
Director of Technology
Kathleen (she/her) is a 30-year veteran of the production world, always in a behind-the-scenes capacity. Kathleen has spent the last seven years volunteering at Live Arts as a stage manager, sound designer, set builder, and any other role she can. She hopes you enjoy this hybrid piece of theater and sends virtual hugs to all!

KERRY MORAN  
Scenic Designer
Kerry (she/her) is an architect who spends a lot of time designing, acting, producing and directing theater. She recently directed TIGERS BE STILL at Live Arts. She thanks Kelley for the opportunity to be involved in this unique and important piece of work. She thanks Annie for her “good hands.” She thanks Mark for everything else.

LEAH PUTNAM  
Dramaturg
LET GO OF ME has been a wonderful experience and is Leah’s first time helping develop a play. She is very grateful to Kelley for sharing the process. While finishing her MA in English at UVA last year, Leah (she/her) worked as a dramaturg on SWEAT at Live Arts, which was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Scene Shop Volunteers

STEVE DONAHUE  
MARIETTA FEIGERT  
VICTORIA FEIGERT  
MELISSA GOLDMAN  
EAMON HYLAND  
JUM JIRAPAN  
MIKE JURIPAN  
SHARON LAWLER  
MURRAY SUSEN  
KERRY MORAN

DARYL O’CONNOR  
SANDRA PAI  
JOHN PICKARD  
LORI PINKEY  
ANNIE ROBERTS  
ELIZABETH ROSE  
MARK RYLANDER  
SAM SPEAR  
ALI STONER  
THE BLADE
GET INVOLVED!

Live Arts is a volunteer-powered organization, and we are committed to providing engaging opportunities for our volunteers through it all.

Find current volunteer opportunities at livearts.org/volunteer. Make sure to sign up for our eNewsletter for the latest announcements!

For more information:
Email volunteer@livearts.org
Give us a call at 434-977-4177

VOLUNTEER-LED GROUPS to check out:

**Playwrights’ Lab**
The Playwrights’ Lab gives local playwrights at any level the chance to present their work, participate in feedback, and discuss other Lab members’ plays.

If you are interested in joining as a playwright or actor, contact lab-fac@livearts.org for more info.

**Readers’ Circle**
Readers’ Circle is a monthly play-reading group created by Carol Pedersen that currently meets virtually to enjoy and discuss great plays!

Contact facilitator Gretchen York at gretchengioia@gmail.com for more info.

Readers’ Circle Meeting
Your financial support makes our work possible! This list acknowledges contributions from January 1 to March 1, 2021.

Amy Goffman & Jim Horstkotte
Andy & Kelli Block
Aspen Miller
Beatrix Ost
Beth Branner Gore
Blair & Laurie Kelly
Brennan Lee
Brian Menard
Carolyn Rainey
Cristine Nardi
Daniel & Aimee Fagan
Daniel Pearce & Maite Brandt-Pearce
David Lim
Deborah Jackson
Elizabeth Fuller
Ellen Root
Erin Fletcher Hall
Gare Galbraith & Alex Ix
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Shannon Montague
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Thomas & Betsy Bloom
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Virginia Daugherty
William Randolph Taylor & Jacqueline Langholtz

Thank you!

We have included names erroneously omitted from the July 1-December 31, 2020 donor list. If you name is missing or listed incorrectly, please accept our apology and send a message to donate@livearts.org so we can correct the mistake.
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Step right up to our magnificent menagerie of experiences for you to enjoy! Place your bids and become a benefactor of Live Arts.

This week-long online auction offers adventures of all kinds, from elegant to thrilling to bizarre... and everything in between!

Summer 2021 at Live Arts

We’re back in the building this summer for safe, in-person camps! We can’t wait for you to see what we have planned.

Stay tuned for more info at livearts.org.
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