

2022 **LIVE ARTS** 2023



Presented by **Silverchair**
Sponsored by **Barbara & Jay Kessler**
Directed by **Susan E. Evans**

Caryl Churchill's

LOVE AND INFORMATION



SEP 30-OCT 22



Live Arts Theater | 123 E. Water Street | 434.977.4177 | livearts.org

STUDY GUIDE

LOVE AND INFORMATION by Caryl Churchill
September 30 - October 22, 2022 in the Founders Theater
Directed by Susan E. Evans

The play runs for approximately 1 hour 50 minutes with a 20-minute intermission.

“It turns out that while this work has the intellectual vigor we expect of Ms. Churchill, it may also be her most sentimental play. It’s all about individuals trying to connect with and understand one another. ... (It) compels us to think about the paradoxical variety and similarity in the ways we try to make sense of our universe and our place in it.” – *The New York Times*

“It was only a matter of time before Churchill addressed our smartphones. In ‘Love and Information,’ she explores with characteristic insouciance the way an endless stream of data – some of it dazzling, much of it banal – has altered our relationships to one another and to ourselves.” – *The LA Times*

“... Churchill suggests, with compassionate urgency, that our insatiable appetite for knowledge needs to be informed by our capacity for love.” – *The Guardian*

“What does ‘Love and Information’ all add up to? Are we supposed to add it up? Or are these like a stream of Tweets, or the little spontaneous stories we glimpse while passing by on a bicycle or in a bus, in which we ourselves supply the missing context and meaning? ... It is certainly eye-opening how much we can figure out from a single moment; this makes the very briefest scenes among the most delightful.”
– *The New Yorker*

Study Guide compiled for Live Arts by Education Director Ti Ames



Rehearsal photo by Will Kerner featuring (top row, L-R): John Rabasa, David Minton, Max Esparza, Ben Atkinson; (bottom row, L-R): Jane McDonald, Hope King, Eliza Banaszak, Christina Ball, Nik Scott & Mylène Freeman.

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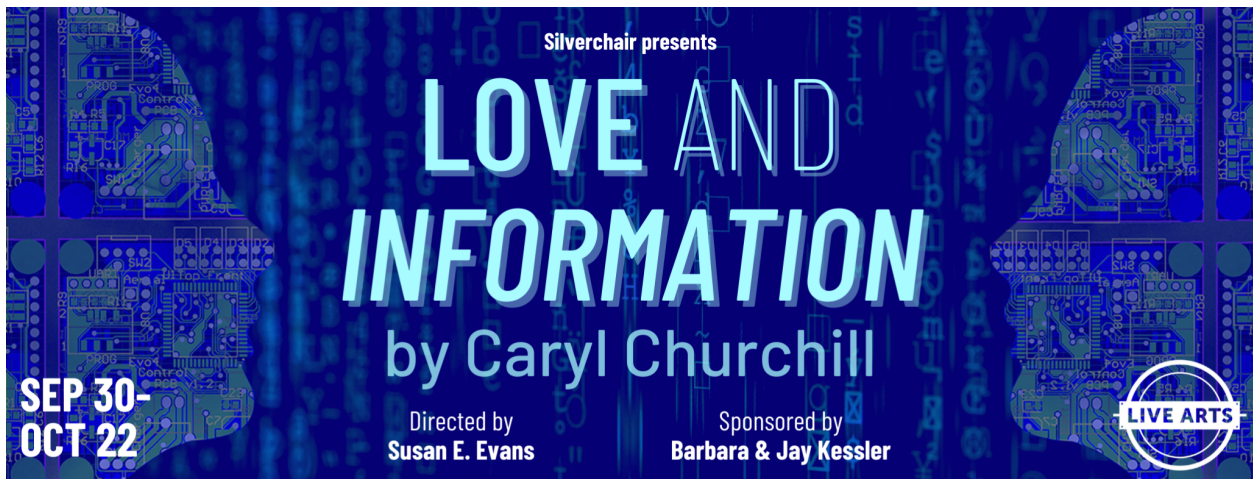
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Plot Summary

Someone sneezes. Someone can't get a signal. Someone won't answer the door. Someone put an elephant on the stairs. Someone's not ready to talk. Someone is her brother's mother. Someone hates irrational numbers. Someone told the police. Someone got a message from the traffic light. Someone's never felt like this before.

In this fast moving kaleidoscope, more than a hundred characters try to make sense of what they know.

Play Structure

The play is made up of a series of very short scenes depicting contemporary life in Britain. There are 50 scenes in total, plus a number of random ones. Some last only five seconds, and none are longer than five minutes. In the script, every vignette has a title. For example, one is called "Wedding Video" and other titles are "Secret" and "Rash." The scenes have been grouped into seven sections, each section simply numbered 1 to 7. Each short scenario is discreet and isolated from the others, with different characters in every scene. This means that there are over 100 characters in the play! In this production, all of the characters are played by a cast of 10 actors. Dotted randomly throughout the piece are nine different micro-scenes, some with

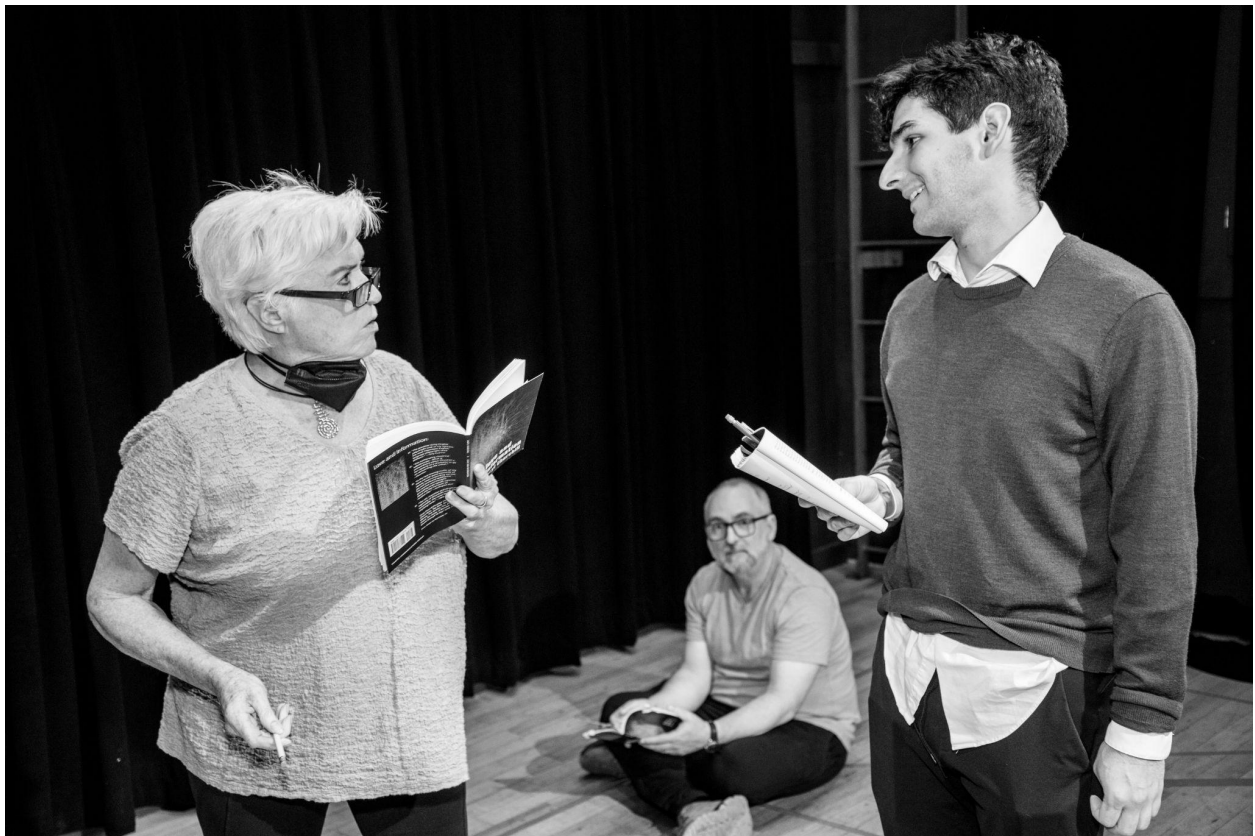
only one line of dialogue, titled “Depression,” or no dialogue at all. This production also repeats three scenes with different actors. The play ends with a vignette called “Last Scene,” and it’s the only scene in which all the actors appear together.

Setting

Then. And now.

Characters

There are over 100 characters in LOVE AND INFORMATION.



Rehearsal Photo by Will Kerner featuring (l-r): Jane McDonald, John Rabasa, and Max Esparza.

Playwright Bio

Caryl Churchill is one of the most influential and significant contemporary dramatists working today. In a 2018 article, *The Guardian* said that the pioneering British playwright “has made every theater trip an adventure into the unknown, with a relentless urge to experiment that hasn’t abated over almost 40 plays.” She has written widely for the stage, television, and radio, and her works combine deep social commitment, political conscience, and critique with theatrical experimentation. From 1972 to the present, her stage plays, many of which originated at the Royal Court or Joint Stock, include: *Owners*; *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire*; *Vinegar Tom*; *Cloud Nine*; *Three More Sleepless Nights*; *Top Girls*; *Fen*; *Serious Money*; *Mad Forest*; *The Skriker*; *Blue Heart*; *Far Away*; *A Number*; *A Dream Play after Strindberg*; *Seven Jewish Children –a play for Gaza*; *Love and Information*; *Escaped Alone*; *Glass. Kill. Bluebeard. Imp.*; and *What If If Only*.



Susan E. Evans, director of *LOVE AND INFORMATION*, on Churchill:

*“This is a play with no defined characters, no clear delineation of who’s speaking to whom, and no indication of where the characters are in time and space. Only playwright Caryl Churchill could pull that off with such poetry, such cohesive integrity, and depth. Churchill constantly reinvents herself as a playwright. She is at once eternally probing and intellectually fierce, while also down-to-earth and familiar. *LOVE AND INFORMATION* is, quite*

intentionally, overstuffed with Too Much Information.”



Rehearsal Photo by Will Kerner featuring (l-r): Eliza Banaszak and Nik Scott.

A Chat with LOVE AND INFORMATION's Costume Designer

Amy Goffman, costume designer extraordinaire and long-time Live Arts volunteer, was tasked with creating, curating, and gathering over 100 different costumes for LOVE AND INFORMATION.



Last Scene: The Real “Facts”

The last scene of LOVE AND INFORMATION is entitled, “Last Scene: Facts.” Live Arts’ Production Stage Manager Etta Feigert did a deep dive of the facts mentioned and realized that they were, in fact, not *true* facts. Below you will find a compilation of the facts mentioned in the scene and their truth behind each of them. Thank you, Etta, for this fantastic list!

- The president of Coca Cola from 1923 until 1939 was Robert Woodruff. In ‘39 he became chairman of the board until 1942. He later served in the same roll from 1952 to 1954 ([Source](#))
 - HB Jones is either a burger joint in Elmhurst IL ([Source](#))
 - **Or** a reference to the Herbert B. Jones Foundation, which looks to support young entrepreneurs in Washington state ([Source](#))
- The smallest village in Central Asia is Barak, Kyrgyzstan
 - Qat is either an Arabian shrub whose leaves are used as a stimulant ([Source 1](#)) ([Source 2](#))
 - **Or** an acronym for the “Quick Access Toolbar” in Windows Office ([Source](#))
- A Huish references either an old Welsh family name ([Source](#)) or a scuba diving company ([Source](#))
 - A gnu is a wildebeest, an African mammal and herbivore ([Source](#))
- There is no real information available on a number of diamonds, the closest I can get is that in ‘57 the value of diamonds mined was roughly \$2 billion (US) ([Source](#))
 - 60,428 could be any number of things. The closest thing I could find is that that is the zip code for Cook County, IL but this connection is pretty weak
 - Support for this as a reason also comes from HB Jones. Elmhurst is a city that overlaps with Cook County. ([Source](#)). This is still a tenuous connection but an interesting potential.
- A poulash (or poolish) is a type of bread. There seem to be only three ingredients: water, flour, and yeast. ([Source](#))
- Stoneham is a town(?) in Massachusetts. ([Source](#)) It seems as though there has been no Battle of Stoneham, though there is at least one Black Revolutionary War soldier from there who is recognized by the National

Parks Service ([Source](#)). Other than that there doesn't seem that there is much notable about the place.

- June 3, 1647 was a Monday. Either nothing of note happened on this day or King Charles I was taken prisoner by the English Parliamentary Army. According to this source, this actually happened on June 4,



1647 but I have found some conflicting information. More will be forthcoming ([Source](#))

- There is no Quasar D 66. What I have found is 3C 66A. This looks like the closest thing. 3C 66A is a Blazer. This said, space is weird so I have a few articles trying to explain all of this. ([Source 1](#), [Source 2](#))

- A capercaillie is a large grouse. The sound it makes is a sort of rhythmic clicking ([Source](#))

*Rehearsal Photo by Will Kerner featuring (l-r):
Director Susan E. Evans and Etta Feigert,
Production Stage Manager.*

- There is no brown-haired bat moth. There is a black witch moth ([Source](#)) and there seems to be some ecological connection between bats and moths ([Source](#))
 - There are a lot of caterpillars that are orange and black. The closest to the description is the caterpillar of the *Tyria Jacobaeae*, the Cinnabar Moth ([Source p. 59](#))
- Gödel's Theorems of Incompleteness ([Source](#)). So this is kind of complicated. "They concern the limits of provability in formal axiomatic theories." (Raatikainen, Panu, "Gödel's Incompleteness Theorems"). Basically they are about how nothing can truly be proven 100%. There will always be a level of

uncertainty. These theorems can't be disproved in part because they are about uncertainty.

- This formula is just nonsense. Not just because I don't understand math but rather, not all of the parameters are filled. When using sigma you need to define an "n" as well as an upper bound.
- Some other things to note. Sigma, in math, means the sum of. Pi is the ratio between the circumference and diameter of a circle.
- We are back to more uncertain definitions with a Plok. The most likely meaning is Plok! a side scrolling platform game made in 1993 ([Source](#))
 - A lart is "(slang, computing, facetious) luser attitude readjustment tool; something with which a clueless person is struck." (Per Wiktionary) ([Source](#))
 - The Gobi desert is located in Eastern Asia.
- *Oceanus Australensis Picardia* is a total fabrication. Beyond not having any meaning, this is not how species are properly taxonomized. I can't find a source for this naming convention. Generally scientific names have two parts, the first is the genus, capitalized, and the second is the species, non capitalized. Always italicized.
 - Oceanus is the name of the Titan of the "great earth circling river ocean" of Greek myth. ([Source](#))
 - *Paragoniastrea australensis* is the binomial for the lesser star coral
 - Picardia means naughtiness from Picaro Sp. meaning rouge, lacking honor, or cunning ([Source 1](#), [Source 2](#))
 - There are several types of sea anemone. They belong to the order of actiniara. ([Source](#))

Further Reading and Community Resources

📄 Love-and-Information-Resource-Pack.pdf

Talkback Information

The audience talkback for Live Arts' **LOVE AND INFORMATION** is scheduled for 9:30pm on Thursday, October 6, 2022, in Founders Theater (123 E. Water St., 3rd floor) with members of the cast and crew, facilitated by Education Director Ti Ames. You do not have to purchase a ticket to the show on October 6 to attend the talkback. This program is provided free of charge to the Charlottesville community. Please email Education Director Ti Ames at ti@livearts.org with questions about the event.

Works Cited

[Love and Information | Concord Theatricals](#)



Rehearsal photo by Will Kerner featuring (l-r): Max Esparza, Jane McDonald, Mylène Freeman, Christina Ball, Nik Scott, Eliza Banaszak, Ben Atkinson, & David Minton.