LOSING MY RELIGION (IN 140 CHARACTERS OR LESS)

BY HANNAH C. LANGLEY

MFA DRAMATIC WRITING YEAR 2
PLAYWRIGHTS WORKSHOP
NEW WORKS FESTIVAL
LOSING MY RELIGION
(IN 140 CHARACTERS OR LESS)
By Hannah C. Langley

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(in order of appearance)
Charity Adkins-Keller
Sabrina Fest
Adam Bellman
Michael Kaczkowski
Joyce Adkins-Keller
Hanna Turley
Charlotte “Harley” Connor
Cherie Carter

TIME
2015–2016

PLACE
The Adkins-Keller Home in Topeka, Kansas
A bar in Lawrence, Kansas
Twitter

There will be one 10-minute intermission.
PLAYWRIGHT’S NOTE
Some may argue America has never been more divided. Since 2016, everything feels fraught with ideological ire and anxiety. One of the only things left that unites people on all sides of the political spectrum is the Westboro Baptist Church.

Their completely unbiased brand of fire and brimstone has left no group unscathed. Whether you are part of the LGBTQ+ community, a solider, a celebrity, a Muslim, a Jew or even just another kind of Christian, they’ve got an offensive sign and message of damnation for you.

But no matter how hateful these people are, they’re still people. And in our current culture of digitally destroying each other on social media, it may be important to explore why people like this do what they do.

As author Mohsin Hamid puts it, “Empathy is… finding echoes of another person in yourself.” The echoes are present in everyone; we just have to listen.

DIRECTOR’S NOTE
While it’s easy to decry people who live by hateful and inflexible doctrines, as theatre artists we must ask: in what ways am I, too, faulty in my assumptions? And where is our common humanity? In the words of the impressive young woman who inspired this play, former Westboro Baptist Church member Megan Phelps-Roper, “We’re all just human beings… We should be guided by that most basic fact, and approach one another with generosity and compassion.” This goes to the heart of making theatre.

It has been an honor working on Hannah’s deeply humane play with such talented, committed students. May we all find the courage to reach for the truth, however it may shatter what we thought we knew.

PLAYWRIGHT’S BIO
Hannah C. Langley is a 25-year-old playwright and novelist from Valencia, California. A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley and a second-year Dramatic Writing MFA Candidate at University of Southern California, Hannah focuses her creative efforts on exposing the real-life struggles of young women with a mix of magic and modern theatricality. Hannah’s second full-length play, Ambitious Card, was featured by the Fountain Theatre in Hollywood during their Spring 2017 Rapid Dev Series. This is Hannah’s first workshop production and she’d like to dedicate it to her wonderful, crazy family who has always encouraged her to keep writing.

DIRECTOR’S BIO
Emily Chase is a Los Angeles actress, director, and teacher. She has directed and participated in play development at Antaeus Company, the Mark Taper Forum, Road Theater, Sierra Madre Playhouse, Theater 40, Met Theater, Playwrights Union, etc. Acting credits include theaters (South Coast Rep, Taper Too, Antaeus Company, El Portal, Getty Center, Ford Theater, and numerous other venues); TV, film, web series, commercials, and the upcoming independent film READY. She has taught and directed at A Noise Within, UC Riverside, Antaeus Academy, and AMDA. She co-founded and facilitates the Antaeus Playwrights Lab, and earned her MFA from UCLA.