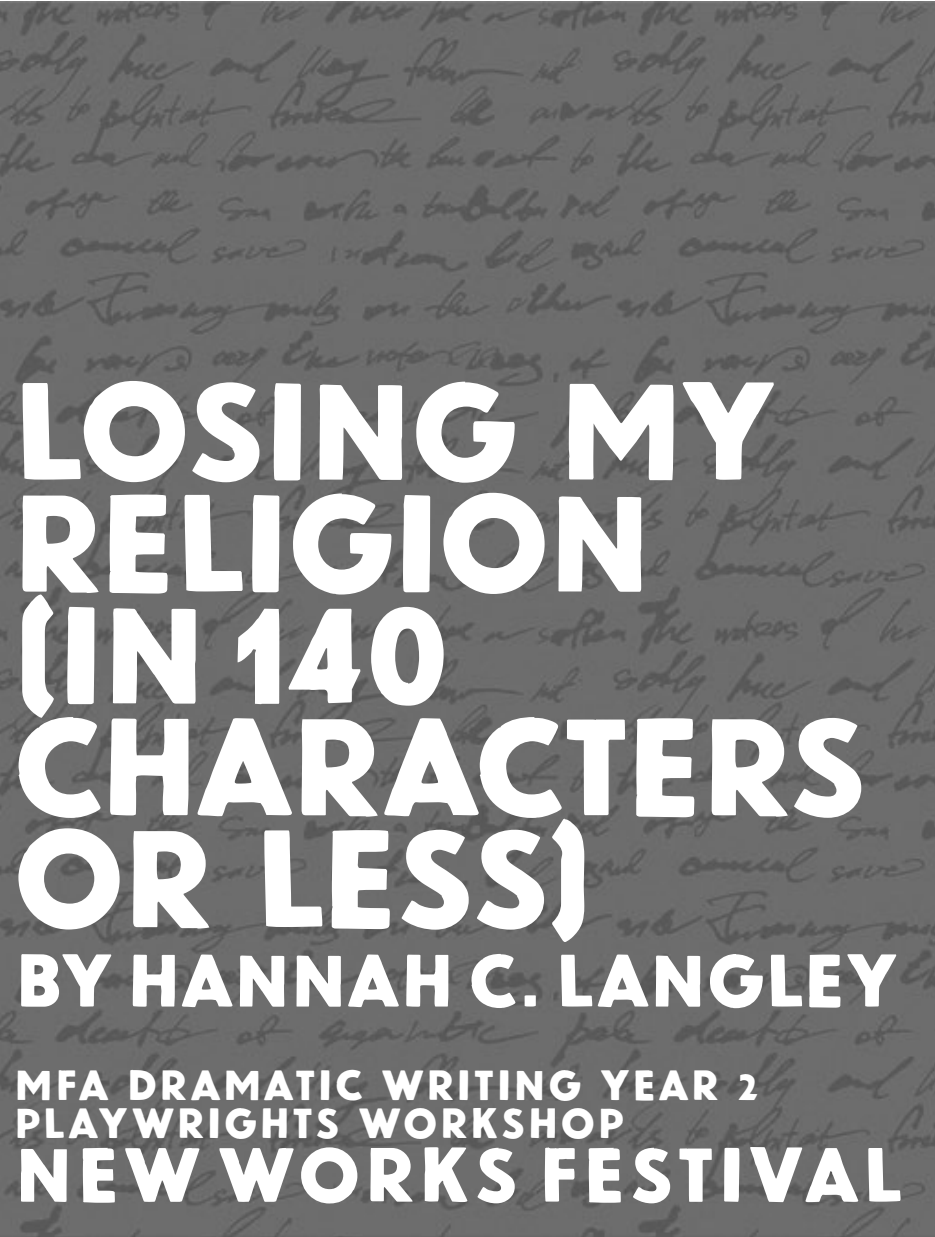


USC School of Dramatic Arts  
Massman Theatre  
April 21–23, 2017



**LOSING MY  
RELIGION  
(IN 140  
CHARACTERS  
OR LESS)**

**BY HANNAH C. LANGLEY**

**MFA DRAMATIC WRITING YEAR 2  
PLAYWRIGHTS WORKSHOP  
NEW WORKS FESTIVAL**

---

USC School of Dramatic Arts

PRESENTS

**LOSING MY RELIGION  
(IN 140 CHARACTERS OR LESS)**

By Hannah C. Langley

WITH (in alphabetical order)

Cherie Carter Sabrina Fest Michael Kaczkowski Hanna Turley

SCENIC AND PROJECTION DESIGN

Mallory Gabbard

COSTUME DESIGN

Sonia Mendez

LIGHTING DESIGN

Stacy McKenney

SOUND DESIGN

Mia Glenn-Schuster

STAGE MANAGER

Mattie Harris-Lowe

DIRECTED BY

Emily Chase

MFA Dramatic Writing Year 2 / Playwrights Workshop  
NEW WORKS FESTIVAL

Massman Theatre  
April 21–23, 2017

---

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.

---

PRODUCTION STAFF

DRAMATURG Melinda Finberg | DIALECT COACH Lauren Murphy Yeoman

CHOREOGRAPHY Stephanie Shroyer | FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHY Joe Sofranko

STUDENT PRODUCTION MANAGER Savannah Harrow

CREW Thomas Archer, Alison Getz, Tiffany Maddahi,

Sara Young Paige, Austin Peay, Samuel Pirie

SPECIAL THANKS

Els Collins, Hannah Burnham, Stephanie Nimick, Tom Buderwitz,  
Tina Haatainen-Jones, Savannah Harrow, and The MFA Dramatic Writing Faculty.

• • •

Special thanks to all the people who asked me good questions  
and demanded better answers. —*Hannah C. Langley*

---

**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 soldier, 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.