



### Playwright's Note:

This play feels like a bit of a risk for me. I usually stick to writing comedies where the laughs come at regular, comforting intervals. This piece is more serious and more personal for me, highlighting struggles that I've seen and experienced.

My intention with the story is to get inside the mind of someone with severe autism, imagining what could potentially be going through her brain in a world that's different from the one we think we know and see. By flipping the script in this way, I'm hoping that it prods us to look at those with non-communicative disorders and disabilities in a new light. What's happening in a person's mind is unknowable, and the play is an attempt at leveling the playing field in some way, giving someone without a voice a chance to speak up, while also respecting the tough realities that parents and care-takers sometimes have to contend with.

I'm really grateful to have taken this leg of the journey with Lisa and Ground Floor Theatre, and look forward to continuing to think about and work on similar subject matter in the future.

### Special Thanks

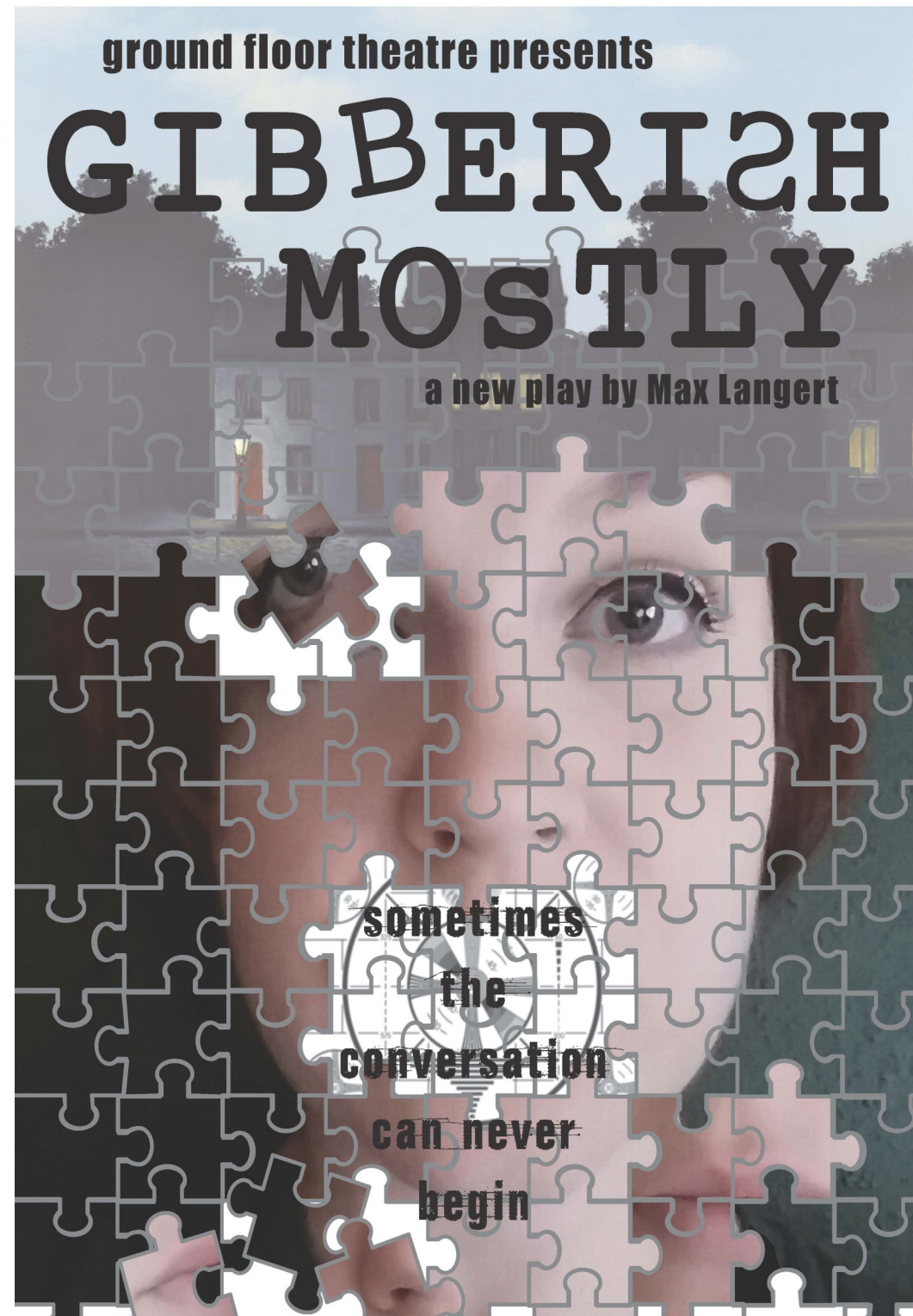
HUGE thank you to the following who contributed greatly to this project and the re-opening of Ground Floor Theatre:

Mary Nelson and Shur-Rig, Nick Mayo, Nicole Shiro and Motley Crew Media, Asaf Ronen, Danny Pitts, Gail Dalrymple, Tom Richardson, Natalie George, Sadie Langenkamp, Joey Gonzales, Maureen McLean, Megan Thornton, Craig Kanne, Sarah McCleary, Topping Haggerty, Donny Posten, Seth Tiven, Chad Dike



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CITY OF AUSTIN  
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DEVELOPMENT

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# Gibberish Mostly

# Bios

An original play by Max Langert  
Directed by Lisa Scheps

Scenic Consultation	Chris Conard
Scenic Construction	Kevin Squires
Lighting Design	Marissa Grace Johnson
Costumes/Props Design	Patti Neff-Tiven
Stage Manager	Jen Venzke

## Cast

(in order of appearance)

Julie Linnard .....	Nicole
Holley Garrison .....	Penny
Suzanne Balling .....	Rose
Dale Sandish .....	Dan

### Suzanne Balling (Rose)

Recent theatre credits include *Mrs. Mannerly* (Different Stages), *Nevermore: The Imaginary Life and Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe* (Doctuh Mistuh), *Death of a Salesman* (Austin Playhouse), and *Bull* (Street Corner Arts). Always excited to bring new works to the stage, Suzanne has performed in many new plays by Austin playwrights, including *Good Weather For Bundt Cakes* by local favorite Max Langert, *Just Outside Redemption* by Dennis Bailey, *Life and Other Terminal Maladies* by Trey Deason, *The Long Now* by Beth Burns, and *Zeus in Therapy*, adapted from the poetry of Douglass Stott Parker. Suzanne is a member of SAG-AFTRA.

### Holley Garrison (Penny)

Holley Garrison is a classically trained actor of both stage and film. Originally from North Texas, She is excited to be a part of Ground Floor's reopening in her first stage performance in Austin! Holley made her acting debut at age 12 as Babe in her school production of *Crimes of the Heart*. Since then, Holley has obtained an Associates Degree of Fine Arts, and trained at React Acting studio in Dallas, Texas. She has acted in an array of performances including Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, Mrs. Soames in *Our Town*, and Nina in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Her favorite role to date has been Queen Clytemnestra in Sophocles' classic, *Elektra*. When she isn't on stage, Holley enjoys singing, cooking, reading, and yoga. Holley would like to thank GFT for helping to make the arts accessible to all!

### Julie Linnard (Nicole)

Julie is proud to be a part of the *Gibberish Mostly* cast as well as the re-opening of Ground Floor Theatre. She has been performing on stage, screen, in living rooms, tiny back alley recording studios and 1830s kitchens for over 20 years. Julie was also seen as Porridge in the widely popular web series, *Master Class*. Other Austin Credits Include: Penfold Theatre, Hidden Room, Tutto Theatre, Pollyanna Theatre (B. Iden Payne Award) and *Intergalactic Nemesis*. Julie is an actor, singer and voice over artist in Austin.

### Dale Sandish (Dan)

Dale attended the Conservatory of Recording Arts and Sciences (CRAS) in Tempe, AZ. His theatre credits include *Grease!* (Broadway), *Forever Plaid* (Off-Broadway), *Pageant* (Off-Broadway) *Titanic* (1st National Tour) and many regional and summer theatre productions around the country. Dale's voice can be heard on the recordings of Strike up the Band and Forever Plaid's 15th Anniversary CD's.

### Lisa Scheps (Director)

Lisa is the founder and co-director at Ground Floor Theatre and is thrilled to be re-opening the theatre with Max Langert's *Gibberish Mostly*. She has been around for a while and has the unique distinction of playing the camel's rear end on Broadway. Besides running the theatre with Patti Neff-Tiven, Lisa hosts local radio show *Off Stage and On The Air* on KOOP community radio. She is more than proud of the work of everyone involved in this show.

### Max Langert (Playwright)

Max Langert's plays have been produced in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, Dallas and Nashville. He's a regular participant in the FronteraFest Short Fringe in Austin and is a proud member of the regional writers' group ScriptWorks. He was born in Oakland and occasionally plays basketball, soccer and Yahtzee with his kids.