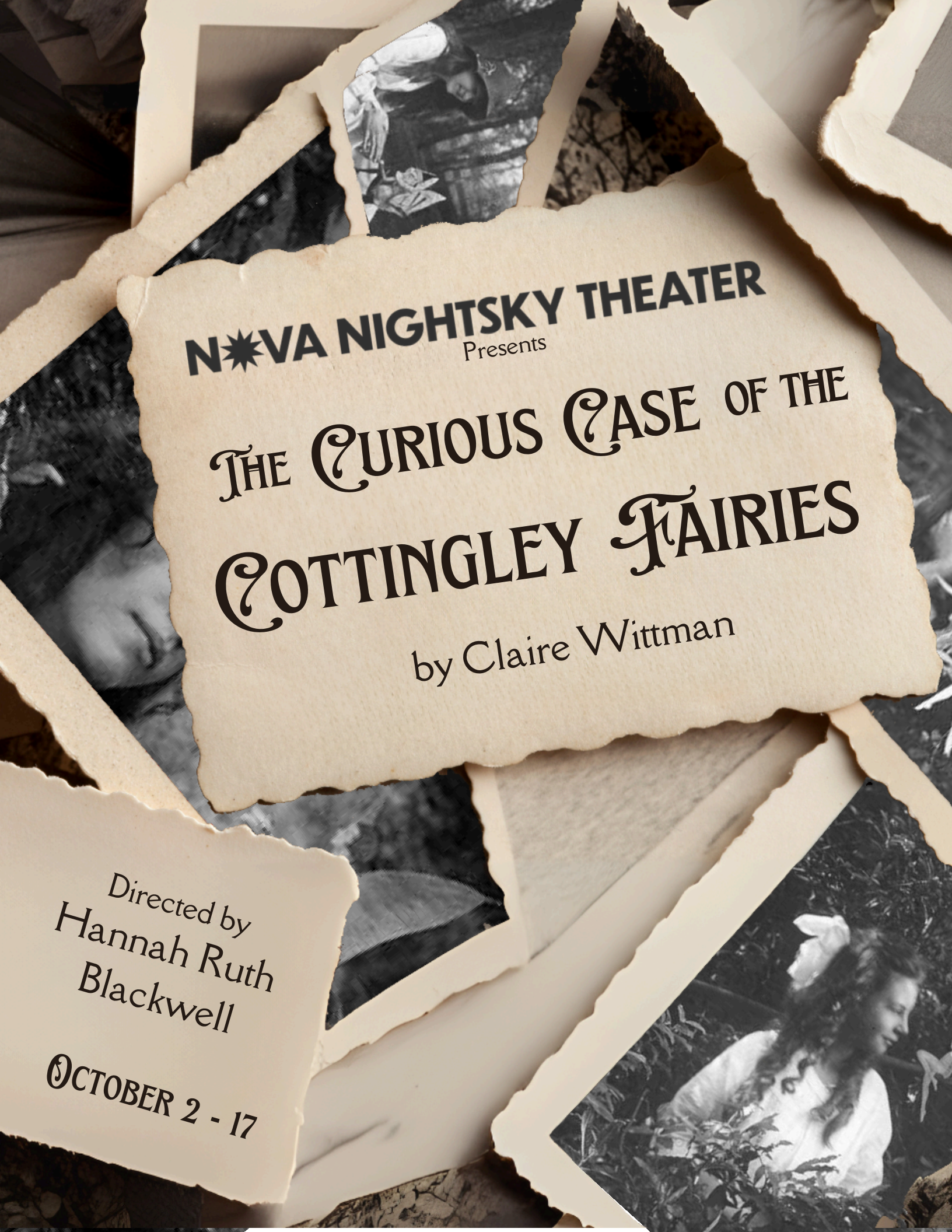




NOVA NIGHTSKY THEATER
Presents

**THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE
COTTINGLEY FAIRIES**

by Claire Wittman

Directed by
Hannah Ruth
Blackwell

OCTOBER 2 - 17

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The Curious Case of the Cottingley Fairies, by Claire Wittman, tells the mostly true story of two young girls in rural England who photograph fairies in the woods behind their home. The photographs the cousins took looked real enough that their existence entranced a world deep in the trenches of WWI, giving everyone something hopeful to hold on to in the midst of tragedy and strife.

You may think that today, such a thing couldn't happen. You would be wrong! I'm reminded of a popular hoax that went around in 2020, when the DMV (as with the rest of the world) was plunged into a global pandemic, and again we needed something hopeful to hold on to. Sometime during that summer, news came out of dolphins returning to various places, including Naples and our own Potomac River. Part of the popular meme "nature is healing," the information was debunked, but that didn't stop perfectly intelligent people from believing that one day they would see a dolphin jump out of the Potomac. They needed something to believe in at a time when, again, the world was in turmoil, and there wasn't much they could be hopeful for.

That tension between hope and reality is where this play sits. Lillian Barnes tells her story to a reporter in 1966, 50 years after the photographs were taken. It's never totally clear which aspects of her story are the truth and which are fabrications. That's what makes the play so delightful. We sit with Lilli and Mabel as the photographs take on a life of their own, and we watch them cope with the repercussions, both good and bad.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE CON'T

I feel really lucky to have worked with an incredible cast, designers, crew, and production team on such a magical, hopeful, joyful play. Thank you in particular to the wonderful SM team, Elyse Smith and Noor Krajah, for keeping us all on track and laughing, and to the incredible designers who made this world come alive: Steph Blackwell (set and props design- and my wife!); Marty Kelly (lighting); Carol Pappas (costumes); and Jon Roberts (projections). Your designs are beautiful, and I could not have asked for a more joyful and fulfilling process.

I want to conclude by saying that this show has been such a joy and privilege to work on. It's not every day that I get to direct a play with dancing fairies, antique cameras, and a séance! It has been a delight and a treat to dive into this wonderful story.

Now, I invite you to sit forward, engage, and enjoy *The Curious Case of the Cottingley Fairies*!

- Hannah Ruth Blackwell





SETTING

TIME: 1966 & 1916

PLACE: ENGLAND

FEATURING

LILLI BARNES

Marina Clark

MABEL HALLAM

Olivia Roland & Olivia Wolfe

HELEN BARNES

Kaye Buell

EMMA HALLAM

Alexandra Ade

ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

Tom Flatt

FRANKIE CANFIELD

Julia Recko

MADAM SPINOZA / ZARA

Isha Raj-Silverman

CHRISTINE CANFIELD

Micaela Procopio

LILLIAN BARNES

Mary Fettes

ENSEMBLE

Pilar Bruyere

Charlotte Buckhold

Judy Butler

Mickey Butler

Siena Butler

Suzie Carmack

TECH & CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR

Hannah Ruth Blackwell

STAGE MANAGERS

Elyse R. Smith

Noor Krajah

SCENIC DESIGN

Steph Blackwell

LIGHTING DESIGN

Marty Kelly

SOUND DESIGN

Hannah Ruth Blackwell

PROPS DESIGN

Steph Blackwell

COSTUME DESIGN

Carol Pappas

PROJECTION DESIGN

Jon Roberts

BACKSTAGE MANAGER

John Geddie

DRAMATURG

Pilar Buyere

CHOREOGRAPHY

Hannah Ruth Blackwell

HAIR DESIGN

Kinsey Robertson & Jaclyn Robertson

PHOTOGRAPHY

Heather Regan

LOGO DESIGN

Adam Ressa

PUBLICITY

Jaclyn Robertson

TECH CREW LEAD

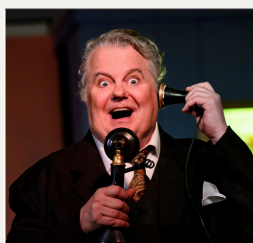
Megan Godbey

DANCE CAPTAIN

Suzie Carmack

DIALECT COACH

Noor Krajah



TECHNICAL CREW



Adam Ressa
Alex Ade
Aura Butler
Amber Monks
BB
Charlotte Buckhold
Chuck O'Toole
Dila Butler
Elyse R. Smith
Emmaline Robertson
Frank Gorrell
Hannah Ruth Blackwell
Harrison Butler
Isha Raj-Silverman
James Storen
Jaclyn Robertson
John Geddie
Jon Roberts
Judy Butler
Julia Recko
Kaye Buell
Kevin Butler
Kyle Mullins
Leanna Saler
Marina Clark
Marty Kelly
Mary Fettes
Megan Godbey
Micaela Procopio
Mickey Butler
Mike Kroboth
Noor Krajah
Olivia Roland
Olivia Wolfe
Pilar Buyere
Sarah Baczewski
Siena Butler
Steph Blackwell
Suzie Carmack
Tom Flatt

**READ CAST AND CREW BIOS ON
ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

NOVA NIGHTSKY LEADERSHIP

PRODUCING DIRECTOR

Jaclyn Robertson

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Sarah Baczewski

DESIGN & TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Adam Ressa

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Elyse R. Smith

COMPANY MEMBERS

JACLYN ROBERTSON
HANNAH RUTH BLACKWELL

ELYSE R. SMITH
FOSSE THORNTON



SPECIAL THANKS

Susan Loyd, Pastor Yena Hwang,
the entire Falls Church Presbyterian Church Family,
Jon and Janet Waterman, Claire Wittman

ABOUT US

NOVA Nightsky Theater was founded in late summer of 2021 by actor/producer Jaclyn Robertson and playwright/director Ward Kay. Both had worked in the local theater scene for years but wanted to bring something a little different to the community. While our first show was performed outdoors in the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have performed productions in all different types of venues, aligning with our mission of producing theater in unconventional spaces. Unlike other community theater companies that rely on grants or donations to operate, we rely on ticket sales to produce our shows. As such, we maintain tight budgets and create shows utilizing the amazing talents of our company members and casts.

100% of your ticket purchase goes into our company.

Please consider joining us for future shows so we can continue to thrive.

