

FINAL BLOW

by Dana Aber



Perhaps the big bad wolf wasn't "bad" —
she just had boundaries.

CONTACT

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Boundaries, besties, bridesmaids, & blame...



In **FINAL BLOW**, The Bride flails against the clock to rehearse her autobiographical one-woman show and also wrestles with honoring her past through her upcoming-wedding's tricky guest list.



Pressured by the clock, The Bride scrambles for her footing—both emotional, from the stress of planning her upcoming wedding, and physical— as she performs an invited dress rehearsal for the play she is presenting.



Weaving the text of the play around personal asides to the audience, The Bride seeks understanding of - and connection to - parts of herself and her history lost when old friendships dissolved (or blew up).



Following the play's recasting of the nature of The Big Bad Wolf, The Bride fumbles through and re-enacts the mess of best-friend betrayals, both adolescent and adult, until she is finally left with the one where must take the blame.



My, what sharp teeth you have...





A sense of feeling adrift is palpable even when juxtaposed against the confident charm of the actor herself. Ultimately, she must give up defining herself by how others have viewed her, and release herself from agonizing over the past.

“FINAL BLOW is a witty and surprisingly tender deep-dive into the very nature of female friendships and the sometimes painful accountability owed to those we call friend.”

BroadwayWorld.com



Sorting through the straw, sticks, and bricks of it all, she questions the cultural blame on boundary-setting, and wonders if the fairy tale got it all wrong.





In **FINAL BLOW**, one woman wonders whether the big bad wolf was really bad, or just had boundaries.



FINAL BLOW's Creator & Creatives



Dana Aber (Creator/Performer)

Dana is a performer, producer, creator, & collaborator. A trained voiceover artist, her 20-year career has spanned the magical, maternal, and manipulative faces of humanity. Theatrically she's played across the country and across the seas, and has been seen Off-Broadway, at Dixon Place, NYFringe, NYMF, the Apollo Theatre, and FDCAC/Classical Theatre of Harlem. A strong advocate for the development of new plays, she has been involved in countless presentations at New Dramatists, NYU Tisch, Dramatists Guild, 54 Below, and Ars Nova. Dana helms Big Thunder Productions, and stars in the web series *The Quarantined Waitress*. Dana is an accomplished solo performer and self-producer who believes in arts education. She coaches privately in NYC and has led workshops for adults and youths at the Int'l Women's Theatre Festival, Caryl Crane Children's Theatre at BGSU, and Mercury Theater Company in Cleveland. Walnut Street Theatre Acting Apprenticeship, NATS Regional winner, MidTown Int'l Festival 2017 Best Actress Award.

Dana writes poems, essays, lyrics, and plays. **FINAL BLOW** is her 2nd full-length soloshow. Her autobiographical 1-woman musical, *Baggage at the Door*, travels her healing process from trauma-induced PTSD. *Baggage at the Door* was a finalist in NYC's

ONEFest, and earned Dana a month-long artist residency with Elsewhere Studios in Colorado in 2018. *Baggage at the Door* looks forward to its regional premiere in Virginia. Dana is currently in collaboration with her brother, Broadway's Drew Aber (he/him) on *Save/Reload*, a soloshow for him, about identity exploration through video games. Dana is a survivor and advocate; she's a fierce & funny femme fatale, the glamour girl next door. www.DanaAber.com



Mika Kauffman (Dramaturg)

Mika is a queer, trans and neurodivergent musical theatre writer, director, dramaturg, performer and producer based in Brooklyn. They firmly believe in leading with radical kindness and empathy, as well as creating equitable, collaborative spaces for people of all racial and cultural backgrounds, gender identities, expressions and abilities. They hold a BFA in Acting from Towson University and a Masters in Musical Theatre Writing from Tisch. He is affiliated with Musical Theatre Factory and Poetic Theater Productions, additionally, they are an Associate Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. Their dramaturgical and musical work has been performed Off-Broadway at the Davenport Theater, the Kraine, Theater 80, the American Theater of Actors, Goodspeed, the Laurie Beechman Theater, Joe's Pub at The Public, and Green Room 42. www.mikakauffman.com



Ria T. DiLullo (Director of NYC workshop production '21)

Ria is the founder and artistic director of The Skeleton Rep(resents), a new works development and production company with a mission to Explore Modern Myth. Through TSR, they have produced 9 full stage shows including "Devices of Torture" (a Fringe 2018 Best Bet), two short play festivals, 50 salons of new plays, countless readings, a 3-part pandemic film project, and a feature-length indie film. In addition to their work captaining TSR, Ria assisted comedian Judy Gold's solo performance class for many years, as well as provide research, feedback, and writing support on her book "Yes / Can Say That" (Harper Collins 2020). They have been the recipient of directing residencies at The Tank, ESPA Primary Stages, MTC, and The Flea. Ria also hold a comprehensive certification in mat & apparatus Pilates and are working towards a certification in holistic biomechanics through the rajardo Method of Movement. www.skeletonrep.org

Development History

December 2019

Presented selections from early draft for Undiscovered Works, Dixon Place Lounge, NYC

January 2020

Accepted to New York Theater Festival

September 2020

Presented 1st half online, SISR (Socially Isolated Script Readings)

November 2021

Performed festival run, New York Theater Festival WINTERFEST 2021, NYC

February 2022

Performed 5 show weekend in Cleveland, presented through special engagement with The Depot Cleveland, OH

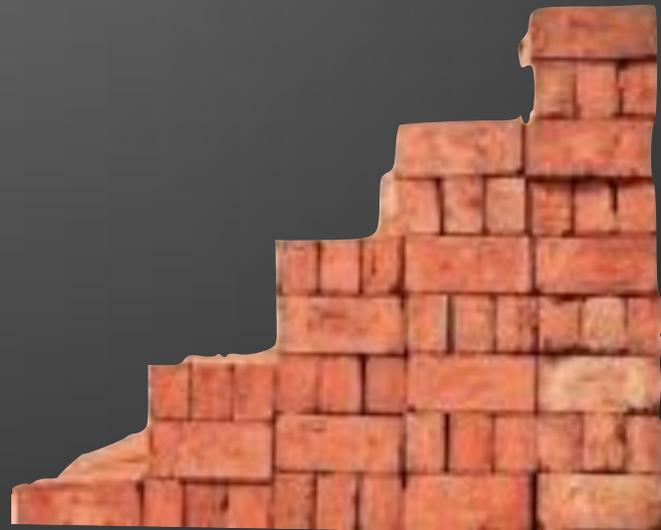


Media

[Link to Teaser-Video](#)

[Link to recent press release](#)

[Link to High Res photo gallery](#)



Technical Requirements

Stage & Set

- Bare open stage space, 12' x 12 or greater
- Programmable lightboard with ability to create pools of color/light shifts, including focused spotlight DSL and C
- Sound system with ability to play preshow/postshow cues (*music provided by artist*)
- Stage Manager/light-board op
- Large prop trunk (*standable/sittable*)

Costumes & Props provided by artist

- Plastic 'branch arch'
- Bouquet of straw
- Foam bricks
- 2 hanging wedding dresses
- 1 lace wedding dress
- 1 vintage wedding dress
- 1 properly-fitting wedding dress to be worn by actor
- Outfit/footwear worn by actor

Preferred additions

- videographer to capture archival footage
- photographer to capture archival photos



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