

MOTHERHOOD OUT LOUD

WRITTEN BY

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CONCEIVED BY

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DRAMATISTS
PLAY SERVICE
INC.

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MOTHERHOOD OUT LOUD

written by Leslie Ayvazian, Brooke Berman, David Cale, Jessica Goldberg,
Beth Henley, Lameece Issaq, Claire LaZebnik, Lisa Loomer, Michele Lowe,
Marco Pennette, Theresa Rebeck, Luanne Rice, Anne Weisman and Cheryl L. West

Conceived by Susan R. Rose and Joan Stein

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The following acknowledgments must appear on the title page in all programs distributed in connection with performances of the Play:

MOTHERHOOD OUT LOUD was developed by Susan R. Rose and Joan Stein
with the support of Renee Landegger, Judith Resnick, Jonathan Murray,
Rodger Hess, and Robin Gorman Newman.

World Premiere presented by Hartford Stage, Hartford, Connecticut.

New York Premiere presented by Primary Stages, New York City.

Dedicated to my friend and co-creator Joan Stein

PRODUCTION NOTE

MOTHERHOOD OUT LOUD can be presented as a reading, with scripts on music stands, or it can be fully staged. The play can involve as many actors as you choose, and as few as four — three women and one man. If the production is presented with four actors, these are the role assignments for each:

ACTOR A: New in the Motherhood; Baby Bird (Woman); Michael's Date; Bridal Shop; My Baby

ACTOR B: Squeeze, Hold, Release; Baby Bird (Stranger/Strange Kid); Nooha's List; Bridal Shop; Stars and Stripes; Report on Motherhood (Great-Granddaughter)

ACTOR C: Next to the Crib; Queen Esther; My Almost Family; Threesome; Report on Motherhood (Great-Grandmother)

ACTOR D: If We're Using a Surrogate ...; Threesome; Elizabeth

MOTHERHOOD OUT LOUD received its Off-Broadway premiere at Primary Stages on October 4, 2011. It was directed by Lisa Peterson; the set design was by Rachel Hauck; the sound design was by Jill BC Duboff; the costume design was by David C. Woolard; the projection design was by Jan Hartley; the animation design was by Emily Hubley; and the production stage manager was Donald Fried. The cast featured Mary Bacon, Saidah Arrika Ekulona, Randy Graff and James Lecesne.

SCENES

CHAPTER ONE: FAST BIRTHS

FAST BIRTHS FUGUE — Michele Lowe

SQUEEZE, HOLD, RELEASE — Cheryl L. West

NEXT TO THE CRIB — Brooke Berman

NEW IN THE MOTHERHOOD — Lisa Loomer

CHAPTER TWO: FIRST DAY

FIRST DAY FUGUE — Michele Lowe

QUEEN ESTHER — Michele Lowe

BABY BIRD — Theresa Rebeck

IF WE'RE USING A SURROGATE, HOW COME I'M
THE ONE WITH MORNING SICKNESS — Marco Pennette

CHAPTER THREE: SEX TALK

SEX TALK FUGUE — Michele Lowe

NOOHA'S LIST — Lameece Issaq

MY ALMOST FAMILY — Luanne Rice

MICHAEL'S DATE — Claire LaZebnik

CHAPTER FOUR: STEPPING OUT

GRADUATION DAY FUGUE — Michele Lowe

THREESOME — Leslie Ayvazian

BRIDAL SHOP — Michele Lowe

STARS AND STRIPES — Jessica Goldberg

CHAPTER FIVE: COMING HOME

THANKSGIVING FUGUE — Michele Lowe

ELIZABETH — David Cale

REPORT ON MOTHERHOOD — Beth Henley

MY BABY — Annie Weisman

MOTHERHOOD OUT LOUD

CHAPTER ONE: FAST BIRTHS

FAST BIRTHS FUGUE by Michele Lowe

Three actresses, A, B, C.

A. I go into premature labor and my doctor puts me on an IV that makes me feel like I've just had fifty-six espressos ...

B. I'm in the back seat of the station wagon on all fours panting like a dog ...

A. After two weeks the doctor says, "I can take you off the drugs tomorrow but if you go into labor I'm going to be way out on Exit 51 on the L.I.E. for Thanksgiving, so if you wouldn't mind can we wait a day?"

C. This Japanese doctor has Ben's head by the forceps and he jumps on my belly to get a better grip ...

B. They finally give me my epidural and a lollipop and I'm thinking, "Where the fuck is the Jack Daniels?"

A. The nurse comes in and I say, "I feel something happening." She looks at the monitor on my belly and says, "Nope. Not yet."

C. I'm pushing like crazy but every time I stop the baby gets sucked back inside because the umbilical cord is wrapped around his neck ...

A. The nurse comes in again and I say, "Look, I think I'm having contractions." She checks the monitor and says, "Nope. Not yet."

B. I don't know what's fucking happening to me, I didn't take any muthafucking baby class, I think my body's gonna split in two and I start screaming ...

C. This woman is screaming in the hall ...

A. The nurse comes in again and I'm in agony and I say, "Look lady, I'm having contractions." Another nurse comes in behind her. Looks at my belly and says to her, "You've got the monitor upside down."

B. Billions of women have done this, right?

A. I'm praying.

B. I'm panting.

C. I'm pushing.

A. He's my fifth.

B. My first.

C. My third.

A. Oh my God.

C. I think my third.

B. One more push —

C. One more —

A. Whatever you do, don't stop —

C. Here he comes!

ALL. Holy shiiiiit! (*Lights shift.*)

SQUEEZE, HOLD, RELEASE **by Cheryl L. West**

Oh, good Lord! Now what? Why won't she just get in the damn car and just go? You age ten years on one of my mother's goodbyes and she's in rare form today. After all, she's saying her first goodbye to her first grandchild, my five-day-old little precious. "You're a mother now," my mother sings, punching my dad in the arm so he'll come in on the chorus, (*Singing.*) "You're in the motherhood club now — your life will never be the same." (*Daughter waves.*) "Bye-bye, Mom. Dad. Yes, it's been great. Couldn't have done it without you. Yes, I'll miss you, too! No, miss you more." My husband cranks the engine, and just as I think I'm finally free, she jumps out the car waving a bunch of photos. Dammit, now what? "Look at this picture! How many kids do you see there? Four. Four

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Claire LaZebnik, Lisa Loomer, Michele Lowe,
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Annie Weisman and Cheryl L. West
conceived by Susan R. Rose and Joan Stein

1M, 3W (doubling, flexible casting)

When entrusting the subject of motherhood to such a dazzling collection of celebrated American writers, what results is a joyous, moving, hilarious, and altogether thrilling theatrical event. Utterly unpredictable, MOTHERHOOD OUT LOUD shatters traditional notions about parenthood, unveils its inherent comedy and celebrates the deeply personal truths that span and unite generations.

"MOTHERHOOD OUT LOUD ... never fails to strike both the funny bone and the heart. Anyone who is or has a mother, a stepmother, a foster mother, or anything in between will be able to relate to and enjoy this insightful piece ... the collection is impeccably cohesive ... What makes the piece work so well is that its portrait of motherhood shows all facets of a family. From adoption to surrogacy to gay parenting to stepmothers, no stone is left unturned ... Put aside any preconceived notions about the topic ... the play will grab you, as a mother in any form has a long-lasting effect whether you like it or not."

—BackStage

"Packed with wisdom, laughter, and plenty of wry surprises."

—TheaterMania

"Funny, unexpectedly poignant and sweetly entertaining. Brings tears of joy ... An evening filled with wit, humor, pathos and enlightenment. Heartfelt and true to life."

—Examiner.com

"[MOTHERHOOD OUT LOUD] succeeds because it is so authentic."

—Entertainment Weekly

"Pretty darn great ... bring a friend — and your own tissues. You'll need them."

—MamaSaid.net

"A humorous and inspiring journey through motherhood. Raw, unadulterated and incredibly moving."

—RockinMama.net

"Chicken Soup for the Mom."

—Variety

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