



MANYDOWN

A PLAY BY SARAH ROSE KEARNS

www.theholytheatre.org/manydown

www.linktr.ee/sarahrosekearns

Sarah Rose Kearns is a playwright, performer, and lifelong Austen enthusiast. Her stage adaptation of *Persuasion* debuted off-Broadway in 2021, and will receive a second production in 2025. She is a recipient of the Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA) International Visitor Program fellowship; with it she travelled to Chawton, UK, in 2022 to perform *Manydown* and to conduct research for another biographical play about the Austen sisters. Rose is a frequent speaker on Austen and the art of adaptation, and has discussed her work at The Peabody Institute in Baltimore, The Jane Austen Summer Program in Chapel Hill, HB Studio, and The New York Society Library, as well as on podcasts, at book clubs, and in classrooms around the country.

She is also the founding artistic director of The Holy Theatre, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit theatre company in New York City, with a mission to make plays and other gatherings that leave people feeling nourished, connected, and more able to be brave. www.theholytheatre.org

Manydown is a tight, portable thirty-minute dramedy, written for two women or nonbinary actors, which imagines one important night in the life of Jane Austen and her beloved sister.

The night is December 2nd, 1802 and Jane is only two weeks away from her twenty-seventh birthday — the threshold of spinsterhood — facing down a lifetime of social invisibility and dependence on the charity of her brothers. Suddenly, she receives a windfall: a proposal of marriage from a rich family friend with a fabulous estate, Manydown. She accepts him, of course . . . but as soon as she's alone with Cassandra, Jane's certainty unravels. Can you be an authoress if you're the mistress of Manydown? What kind of love, and how much, is enough to sustain a marriage — or for that matter, a life? A poignant and funny celebration of sisterhood and the artist's calling, *Manydown* has been performed at libraries, schools, festivals, conferences, and theatres in five US states, as well as in the UK and New Zealand.

To inquire about licensing the script, or to arrange for The Holy Theatre to produce *Manydown* at your institution, please email rose@theholytheatre.org.

