

# ***THE TRIALS***

***OF***

***MAUD  
ALLAN***



***THE MARSH  
BERKELEY***

***MARCH 4 . 6 . 11 . 13 . 2025***

# The Trials of Maud Allan

by  
William Brasse

Directed by CC Miller

**A dramatized biography** of the modern dancer Maud Allan (1873-1956). Though born in Canada, she grew up in San Francisco. She went to Germany to study piano but eventually turned to dance. She was an early and influential practitioner of modern dance, but she is usually overlooked in treatments of that art and is always overshadowed by Isadora Duncan.

**William Brasse** is a published author of novels, short stories, plays, essays, poetry, and all Rough Magic Press books. Like so many people, William Brasse lives in California. Like fewer people, he was born in Tennessee. Like almost no one, he has been a vegan since 1979.

***The Trials of Maud Allan*** is a play that explores the ups and downs (the waves) of life. Maud faced many challenges, yet she persevered through it all and kept dancing into her later years. Maud's inspiring story symbolizes the artist who never gives up, even in the battle against time.

This play has made me reflect on ‘What it means to be an artist, and how to remain true to yourself through your art. Even whilst the world is against you.’

Maud faced numerous trials but navigated them through dance. Although Dance was fleeting during her time, she overcame her trauma with perseverance, drew inspiration, created art, and reinvented herself.

Facts about the play/Maud/The Vision:

- Most of Maud's speech in the play is pulled from her diary entries.
- There are no recordings of her dances - Only posed photographs
- Maud was an interpretive dancer
- Wilde is a ghost
- The Professor is the only present-day character although various moments in the play tell old stories in a contemporary fashion for today's audience
- Maud's dances are meant to be different in each show.
- We are telling a story about a forgotten dancer.
- Like the body, fame is ephemeral . . . unless, of course, you are Shakespeare.
- Maud is like Aphrodite in ways and the Marilyn Monroe of her time.
- In the show, Maud is like Cher – Ageless.
- One could say that Salome was Maud's one hit wonder.
- Like Oscar Wilde, Allan was ahead of her time. Their collaboration is symbolic of going against social normalcy and order. Maud's dance as Salome was an action of feminist awakening that was seen as scandalous and shunned. But

People liked it as well! It's a contradiction and  
“Small-minded people will always attack anything new or different.”

Was it so new to dress in limited clothing?

Maud was a voice and inspiration for women's liberation - she saw the body as a natural expression, that should be able to move less restrictively, and of the character she embodied ~ a symbol of going against religious freedom. She knew that the body was temporary and why should we cover up something so beautiful and natural? The Greeks honor the body in nude sculpture. Aphrodite- the symbol of proud love for the body that gives us life! My vision is filled with fun/ fleeting/ immersive surprises. I wanted to use modern props to integrate modern-day narration and help the audience connect to the story in a light-hearted, engaging, and silly way.

- Dance is a gift to share.

Thank you all for coming to see ***The Trials of Maud Allan!*** It has been a joyful experience learning about Maud's story while bringing this fun script to life! The play introduces us to many exciting characters who help tell Maud's story and all she went through. - As we go through our trials in life we must treasure all we have, stay curious, and playful, and offer our gifts to the world! I believe in focusing on the process- This show has been a fulfilling and playful process and I'm so happy you are here to witness the continuous exploration with us! We hope you Enjoy the show!

- CC Miller- Director

## Cast

<b>Amanda Vitiello</b>	Maud Allan / Salome
<b>Kipp Glass</b>	Oscar Wilde / Herod
<b>Vivian Le</b>	Professor
<b>Hallie Sullivan</b>	Sheila / Herodias
<b>Maddox Scardina</b>	Mr. Chapin / Theo / Policeman / Ferruccio Bussoni / Leo / Pemberton Billing
<b>Isabelle Glavin</b>	Ballerina
<b>Skyler Lee Baysa</b>	Composer/Pianist/Sound

## Crew

<b>Haley Margaret Baynard</b>	Stage / Assistant Production Manager
<b>Lee Garber-Patel</b>	Costumes
<b>Jordan Goldstein</b>	Lights
<b>CC Miller</b>	Producer/Projections & Props
<b>Hasan Ebussuutoglu</b>	Marketing/Photographer
<b>Bradley Markwick</b>	Technician

With Choreography by Amanda Vitiello  
Special thanks to Iu-Hui Chua

Presented at ***The Marsh*** Berkeley  
March 4, 6, 11, 13, 2025

***The Back With Two Beasts*** productions  
**[www.roughmagic.com](http://www.roughmagic.com)**