

## MARIANNA ELLENBERG: DUETS / GESCHLECHT



**DUETS** melds Ellenberg's **autobiographical monologues** with investigations of feminist icons **Andrea Dworkin**, **Simone Weil**, and **Claire Booth Luce**, who wrote one of the first feminist plays before turning into a conservative later in life. In a **modern television studio set**, the play **explores the lives of these three women**, from coming of age to their political epiphanies and personal struggles. Duets is a **cycle of meditations on feminist refusal, resistance**, and commitment in the face of ongoing American socio-political crisis and spiritual despair. The **soundtrack** will draw from liturgical rhythms, pop, and television show jingles to create a multi-media performance.

DUETS interweaves the genres of **melodrama**, **late-night debate show**, **structural performance**, and **invocation**. An old-school conservative, a radical feminist and an existential saint each become unhinged as their circumscribed worldviews are broken down in this experimental battle of wills. The debates will be occasionally interrupted by direction from the artist/auteur, and instructions to re-do scenes. These **interruptions will open up the space of debate and encounter** from the participants/audience. The piece will be rehearsed in the space, and all aspects of the location will be integrated into the final performance.

*\*Geschlecht = from the German, almost impossible to translate, at times it can mean sex, race, nation, class, species, family, lineage, branch, generation, stock, genre, and type. The word fascinated Derrida because of its multiplicity and inability to be translated definitively to any one term. It is through transformation and deformation that the site of meaning is created.*

### **STRUCTURE**

One-hour performance, which will be staged and rehearsed over three weeks at a local rehearsal space

### **PROPS**

Designed by the artist team, to include a bench for the live television taping

### **MOVEMENT**

Choreographed and staged by Stacey Grossfield.

### **SOUND**

Sound design and live FX will be composed by Brian Chase.

## **PROCESS**

The work was first conceived with Alex Tartarsky and Maxwell Cosmo Cramer in a series of sketches and video rehearsals (2021-2025) and is being further developed with a **Jghtknit** group of local performers.

**Ensemble:** Alex Tartarsky, Hannah Applebaum, Maxwell Cosmo Cramer

**Choreographer:** Stacy Grosfield, <https://www.stacygrossfield.com/>

**Music:** Brian Chase, <https://chasebrian.com/>

## **REPRESENTATIVE IMAGERY** - REHEARSALS 2023-2025

