**GOD AND SEX**

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Wendy Michaels

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**DEVELOPMENT HISTORY**

WORKSHOP READINGS

2011

2012

2013

2014

STAGED READING

2014 Santa Monica Playhouse

2016 Santa Monica Playhouse

PRODUCTIONS

2017 Santa Monica Playhouse

**SYNOPSIS- GOD AND SEX – LGBT – Dramedy -8 actors or 5 actors.**

A bride. A groom. A maid of honor. (who just happens to be the bride’s ex-lover) WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG?! AMY, an ambitious and driven bi-sexual woman in her early 40’s wants to get married to TIM and keep her past relationships with women a secret from Tim’s family, friends and church. Amy asks her former lesbian lover to be her bridesmaid. Getting married to a man, Amy is finally able to share an intimate relationship with her conventional-thinking father. The marriage takes place in a small town where Amy and Tim renewed their friendship and fell in love. The small town has the perfect quaint country church backdrop; however, the church is homophobic as is the friends and family of Tim. What if coming of age happened in your 40’s?

**RESUME/BIO**

WENDY MICHAELS is an LA-based playwright, writer and actress. She was chosen to be one of the writers in Lisa Soland's inaugural ALL ORIGINAL PLAYWRIGHT WORKSHOPS [www.lissoland.com](http://www.lissoland.com) which is where GOD AND SEX was birthed as a solo show. The show found itself in the closet (literally) until she could get honest about the story’s premise. The story is now ‘out’ as a full-length play and had its world premiere at the Santa Monica Playhouse in 2017 from February through May to great reviews. <http://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com/god-and-sex.html>.

Wendy will return with Season Two as co-writer/co-creator of the award-winning, critically acclaimed web series, MY SISTER IS SO GAY <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLDdJNNWT9BDKIFp8fJPRNw> and can now be seen on Amazon Prime as a half hour sitcom comedy series.

LOVING MATHEW had it’s first staged reading 2019 at the City Garage Theatre in Santa Monica to wonderful feedback.

Two showcase presentations of her solo work, “CAPTIVITY IN THE BOX” occurred in Hollywood, November 2013 and March 2014 at NEW COLLECTIVE in Los Angeles and is the basis for a documentary she is creating about a captive elephant who was sent to an elephant sanctuary after 26 years in a traveling circus.

**CHARACTERS**

AMY RYAN 40’s. She is quick-witted, bright, fiercely loyal and generous. A romantic dreamer who playfully engages and then abruptly applies the brakes. Dramatic by nature. She finds herself on a path that isn’t going her way so her frustration is multi-layered and stems more from the ‘idea’ that she wants wholeheartedly to believe this path will work and finds the challenges, at times,

incomprehensible, in a quirky way. Should never come across as a complaining brat.

TIM OLIVER 40’s. AMY’s fiancé. An ‘everyman’ with a wry sense of humor to match Amy’s. Highly intelligent and a consummate reader. Hides as a coping mechanism. Loves Amy fiercely.

KAREN WALLACE Amy’s past female lover. A lipstick lesbian. A bawdy out-spoken woman 6 years Amy’s senior. A charismatic and talented painter. Loves to please.

PHIL RYAN Amy’s dad. A high functioning drinker who is unable to communicate nicely with Amy unless drunk. O.C.D. and authoritative.

MARILEE RYAN Amy’s stepmom. Beauty pageant winner. Very Traditional. Abhors Phil’s drinking.

MINISTER Southern, bible thumping and conservative.

REV KATHERINE Compassionate and empathetic minister with extraordinary capacity for gentleness and care.

MATHEW Amy’s brother who has schizophrenia.

Phil/Minister/Mathew – one actor

Marilee/Rev Katherine – one actress

**SETTING**

It is important that the scenes flow one into the other, without taking time for complex set changes. To that end, the world premiere used a series of projections with furniture simple enough in design to be used to represent different locations - details will be described in the stage directions throughout the play.

TIME: Contemporary

STAGE RIGHT is a table with four chairs. The chairs are scattered as if a meeting was held the night before. STAGE LEFT is a couch and coffee table.

**AT RISE**

Lights up. PROJECTION: Church rectory circa 1970’s. Wood paneled walls. Air conditioner unit. Water cooler. Bloody Jesus picture on wall clearly seen. Stage is empty.

**ACT I SCENE 1**

(Through DOWNSTAGE LEFT door, pops Tim’s head and he realizes he’s in the right place)

TIM

It’s in here, Amy.

AMY (O.S.)

Finally!

(AMY enters following TIM and immediately notices the bloody Jesus.)

AMY (con’t)

What the? (staring) Why is there so much blood?

TIM

I can’t believe we made it with one minute to spare.

(TIM grabs the chairs and arranges them in front of the table)

AMY

Why is he bleeding so much?

TIM

Because he has nails in his hands and legs and thorns in his head.

AMY

Damn.

TIM (sweetly)

I wouldn’t cuss in here.

AMY

In the office?

TIM

It’s a church.

AMY

Well technically, we’re not *inside of the actual* church.

TIM

I’m pretty sure the whole building counts as a church.

AMY

You’re making that up.

TIM

No, I’m not.

(AMY robustly kisses TIM)

TIM

What?

AMY

I love you.

TIM

I love you, too.

AMY

Can you believe we are really doing this?

TIM

I know.

AMY

So, what do I call him again?

(MINISTER suddenly enters having heard her last question.)

MINISTER

Mornin’.

(AMY jumps.)

TIM

Good Morning, *Reverend.*

AMY

(Mimics Tim)

Good Morning, *Reverend.*

MINISTER (gruffly)

I think the last time I saw you, Tim, in my church was….…I believe it was a couple a’ fourth of July holidays ago.

TIM

Yes sir, it was. It’s been--.

MINISTER

--I hope that when you visit your folks here, it isn’t the ***only time*** you go to church.

TIM

 (lying)

No sir.

MINISTER

Have a seat. (Remains standing. Staring.) Your daddy told me you living in la-la land now?

TIM

I’ve always loved California. I’d like to introduce you to

Amy Ryan, sir.

AMY

His fiancé. Nice to meet you.

TIM

My...yes... fiancé. Yeah, sorry.

(Awkward silence)

MINISTER

Thought you are married.

TIM

You know, Kathy and I *did* get divorced. (beat) I wanted to talk with you this morning about the two of us getting married here in your church.

MINISTER

Here?

AMY

 (excited)

We’re thinking next year in April.

MINISTER

Why do you want to be married in this church?

 (Brief silence)

AMY

Actually, because we fell in love at The Hickory Mountain

Inn here, one weekend. It’s such a funny story. We couldn’t stay at his parents, because they were doing some construction on the house and even though my dad has a house nearby, we couldn’t stay there either because he prefers that we be married before we sleep in the same room. So, we stayed at the hickory-

MINISTER

-You getting’ married so you can sleep together at your daddy’s house?

AMY

Uh. No...Not at all. Anyway, we were staying at the Hickory Inn and we fell in love one weekend, so we decided it would be really special to get married in a *quaint* *country church* in Hickory.

MINISTER

I don’t want you to get married in this church cuz’ you want it to be a *backdrop* for your weddin’.

AMY

Oh no, it’s not a backdrop. We want to be married *in* the church.

MINISTER (sarcastic)

Other than you fell in love here in Hickory, one weekend, why?

(silence)

TIM

(to the rescue)

My parents love this church, as you know and suggested that we come and talk to you since they love it so much.

MINISTER

I was happy to see your folks finally retire up here. Your momma is a good cook. You Episcopalian, right?

TIM

Yes sir.

MINISTER

No, son. I meant, Amy. I know you are.

AMY

I think I’m Lutheran.

MINISTER

You *think*? You better make sure before you walk down the aisle in my church. I assume you both ***attend*** *one regularly* in California?

TIM (lying)

We have a couple options. We thought we’d do the pre-marital counseling out there…you know, once we narrow it down.

MINISTER

Narrow it down before April.

AMY

(to TIM)

What’s pre-marital counseling?

MINISTER

Where did you meet this gal, Tim? It’s counseling with the minister that couples partake to ensure that they are compatible pawtners. It **should** be with me.

AMY

Has it ever been discovered that they weren’t compatible?

MINISTER

All the time, but they get married anyway. (Staring at Tim)

AMY

(non-plussed)

Would it be possible for you to baptize me Episcopalian this weekend before we head back to California?

MINISTER

No, it would not be possible to baptize you Episcopalian this weekend before you head back to California. (beat) (perturbed) If I wasn’t such a *large fan* of your family, son, I’d have to give you a big, fat no.

TIM

Yes sir, thank you.

MINISTER

(Shaking his head) We’ve got some clearly defined rules for weddins’. No decorations in the church permitted. You can have a maximum of 2 vases of flowers at the altar. I’ll need to approve their size. No making up your own vows; they are clearly assigned by God and the bible. You cannot have the ceremony before 5:30 in the evening. This will be a church service so... no picture-takin’ inside the church. (with finality) If I see *one* flash go off during the service, I’m gonna stop what I’m doing and not proceed.

AMY

Pause the service?

MINISTER

STOP the service.

AMY

Stop the wedding?

MINISTER

It’s a sacred event and the covenant of marriage is a contract between you and *God* and not an appropriate time for a photographer to be *milling* around taking pictures.

AMY

We can only take pictures outside of the church, is that what you’re saying?

MINISTER

You can take pictures inside the church but only before and after the ceremony. (beat) Still want to get married here in our *quaint country church*?

(awkward silence)

MINISTER (con’t)

You two can talk about that after you leave here, cuz’ I got anotha’ meeting upstairs I gotta get to. (Stands) (sweetly)They’re bringing those donuts from that bakery on the hill. Have you had those, son?

TIM

I have sir they’re delicious.

AMY

 (losing happiness)

Would it be okay if I just peek at the *inside* of the church before we leave?

MINISTER

Just back through that door to the left.

AMY

Excuse me.

(AMY exits)

MINISTER

Tim, you tell your Daddy and Momma I send my regards and I look forward to that cornbread of hers this Sunday.

TIM

I will do. I love it as well.

MINISTER

Send me that pre-marital paperwork when you narrow your church down. We’ll talk again as time gets closer.

(pointedly) See you this Sunday?

TIM

 (lying)

We’ll be there.

(MINISTER exits) (AMY enters completely unhappy)

AMY

OH MY GOD. That IS NOT a *quaint country church.* What the *hell*? That orange shag carpeting? What *isn’t* it covering?

TIM

C’mon…it’s not *that* bad.

AMY

Are you serious? It looks like a clown threw up. Shit!!

TIM

 (adamant)

Stop cussing inside a church.

AMY

And now; I gotta’ get baptized Episcopalian.

**LIGHTS OUT.**