

THE PLAY'S THE THING
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026

Peninsula Players Theatre Presents

the after wife
by Sophie McIntosh



Directed and Stage Directions by Linda Fortunato*

Setting

The suburbs of Chicago, 1963

Cast

Nora Cassie Slater*
Martin Greg Prigel*
Ruth Emily Ann Brooks
Wally Connor Nekich

* - Actors appear courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

It's 1963, and Nora is the perfect housewife. She was built to be. The most authentically humanoid robot prototype yet created, she's undergoing a trial run in the home of robotic engineer Martin and his teenage kids, Ruth and Wally. But Ruth can't get over how much Nora looks like her own mother Lillian, who has disappeared without a trace. Martin faces surging pressure from his employers to make Nora the new and improved model for motherhood, and Ruth is forced to work against her father and the powerful corporation behind him as she desperately tries to track down her real mother.



World Premiere Wisconsin

the after wife is presented in conjunction with World Premiere Wisconsin, a yearlong, statewide festival dedicated to developing and showcasing new plays and musicals created in Wisconsin.
Learn more at www.worldpremierewisconsin.com

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**Patrick O'Hearn
& Anita Zipperer**



Meet the Cast

the after wife



Emily Ann Brooks - Actor

Emily is thrilled to make her Peninsula Players Theatre debut! Regional performance: Marriott Theatre (Zaneeta in *The Music Man*, Ermengarde in *Hello, Dolly!*, Janet in *The Magic School Bus*), Florida Studio Theatre (Ruby in *Dames at Sea*), Paramount Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, and Northlight Theatre. Choreography, direction, and/or associate: Paramount, Marriott, Lookingglass, First Floor Theater, Metropolis PAC, Theatre Wit. Emily also teaches dance and theatre around Chicagoland. Proud Northwestern alum. @emilyannbrooks



Greg Prigel - Actor

Greg hails from Buffalo, NY and now lives in Green Bay. Acting: *Gutenberg, The Musical!*, *King James* and *The Wanderers* (Forward Theater); *Every Brilliant Thing* (The Weidner); *Boeing, Boeing* (Third Avenue Playworks); *Next to Normal* and *Baby: the musical* (Play-By-Play); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Orlando Shakes); and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Nat. Tour). TV/Film: *Chicago Fire* (NBC); *Left on Red* (TUBI); and *Mort* (Benefits). Directing/Fight Directing: *36 Juniper* (Off B'Way World Premiere & NYIT Nom.) and *She Kills Monsters* (UWSP). Niagara U & the Stella Adler Studio of Acting, NY grad. AEA/SAG-E actor. Rep: Dreamteam Talent. Lecturer in acting at UWSP. All love to Liz, Maddie and Harrison.



Connor Nekich - Actor

Connor is a Chicago-based performer. He has spent this last season as a member of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Emerging Professional Residency where his credits include *A Christmas Carol*, and understudying *McNeal* and *It's a Wonderful Life*. Other credits include *Oliver!*, *Juliet and Romeo* and *To Catch a Thief* at Skylight Music Theatre, and understudying at Renaissance Theaterworks and First Stage. Offstage, Connor will talk your ear off about Stephen King.

Meet the Cast, Director & Playwright *the after wife*



Cassie Slater - Actor

Cassie Slater is a mother, teacher, maker, director, and an award-winning actor and singer. After receiving her BFA from The Theatre School at DePaul University, she began her career in Chicago where she was a recipient of a Joseph Jefferson Award for her role as Mary in *Merrily We Roll Along*. She has worked extensively in the development of new musicals and has been a featured vocalist at Lincoln Center, Birdland, Joe's Pub, and Merkin Concert Hall. In 2009, she won the New York Music Theater Festival's Next Broadway Sensation Competition, which led to her solo show *Chimera* at Joe's Pub. Cassie's autobiographical play with music, *How To Lobster*, premiered as part of Steppenwolf Theatre's LookOut Series in the spring of 2023. Her greatest achievement is being mom to sweet Winona. www.CassieSlater.com



Linda Fortunato - Artistic Director, Director & Stage Directions

Linda's Peninsula Players Theatre credits span over 20 seasons, in which she has acted, directed and choreographed. Linda was previously the artistic director of Theatre at the Center in Munster, Indiana, where she directed *Cabaret*, *Big River*, *The Tin Woman*, *Steel Magnolias*, and participated in a dozen other shows as the director, choreographer or actor. Other credits include work with Marriott Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre, BoHo Theatre, American Players Theatre, and teaching in the theatre departments of both Loyola University and Columbia College Chicago.



Sophie McIntosh - Playwright

Sophie McIntosh is a New York-based playwright and theatermaker. Her writing gives voice to women and queer folks, examines life in the small-town Midwest, and explores how our interactions with animals reflect back our own humanity. Sophie is the co-founder of Good Apples Collective, a developmental orchard for new theatrical works that she co-leads with her frequent collaborator Nina Goodheart. Recent productions of Sophie's work include the world premiere of *macbitches* (New York Times Critic's Pick); the premieres of *Road Kills* (recommended by The New York Times and The New Yorker), *cunnicularii*, and *cityscape* with Good Apples Collective; and *Eleven Weeks of Nuclear Summer* at Notre Dame University and the University of Michigan. She is a proud recipient of a BA in drama from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and recently graduated with an MFA in playwriting from Columbia University. www.sophiemcintoshwrites.com