



FATHER, DAUGHTER AND HOLY GHOST

Written and performed by Barbara Brady
Developed with David Ford

FATHER, DAUGHTER AND HOLY GHOST is Barbara Brady's comedic and loving tribute to her own family and adult children everywhere who care for aging parents. Written and performed by Brady, the show looks into the fragile and often ridiculous situations that arise when siblings accommodate an eccentric parent's wish to age in place and die at home.

Hailed as "a gem of the fringe festival" at the 2019 Great Salt Lake Fringe Festival, where Brady had "audiences laughing out loud," FATHER, DAUGHTER AND HOLY GHOST is about the humor, frustration and love that adult children experience as their parents become more and more dependent, and families cope in their own unique ways.

FATHER, DAUGHTER AND HOLY GHOST is inspired by Brady's experiences with her father, a brilliant and eccentric scientist, as she and her sister try to decipher whether Dad's odd behaviors are endearing quirks or health complications.

"Dad may be slowing down," Brady says early in the show, "but he's always been slow. He's a scientist and a deep thinker who always does everything in a deliberate, methodical way." His use of scientific workarounds to keep up the activities of daily living are a recurring theme. Religion and music also figure prominently in the show. Eventually, hospice is called, and the family's unique approach to life continues to the end.

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"We had some intense moments. It's quite amazing to see what memories and emotions surface when tensions run high or when you're simply being with someone at the end of a long life. Our mother (who has a couple of cameos in the show) always said, 'If you don't laugh, you cry.' We did a lot of both. Dad was such a unique character. I hope audiences will appreciate what an interesting and funny guy he was," Brady said.

FATHER, DAUGHTER AND HOLY GHOST is Brady's first solo show of this kind. Her resume includes choral and cabaret singing, performance art, and writing. She considers it a fateful day when she enrolled in David Ford's *Creating and Performing Your Own Work* class at The Marsh Theater in San Francisco. It's something she'd been considering for a few years. Ultimately, her motivation followed from attending a grief group offered by the hospice that had assisted the family in her father's last days.

"At first, the plan was to explore writing in a new form and do a 20-minute monologue. It seemed like a productive way to process my grief, grow creatively and also blow off steam after having been through such intense experiences taking care of Dad," Brady says. "I had a lot of steam to blow off, I guess, because it turned into something more."

Developing the show has been a two-year process involving writing, improvisation and performance under the guidance of David Ford, a director, playwright and Artist in Residence at The Marsh. She has performed excerpts in solo showcases, including Solo Sundays at Stage Werx in San Francisco and The Marsh Theater in San Francisco and Berkeley. She performed the full-length show at the 2019 Great Salt Lake Fringe Festival to rave reviews.

"The process has been an interesting reexamination of my experience," she said. "The situations depicted in the show are based on real events and exaggerated for humor and dramatic interest. But the underlying truths are there. It's fascinating to step other peoples' shoes in this art form."

Brady's 2020 performance schedule includes the Marsh Theater's *Tell It On Tuesday* series on February 25 in Berkeley, the Orlando International Fringe Festival in Orlando, FL, May 12-25 and other festivals in the U.S. and Canada.