

**PIPELINE** proudly presents a  
*playwrights* Virtual World Premiere



A  
V  
P  
P  
Very  
Present  
Presence

written by Ann Timmons  
directed by Catherine Tripp

*available only on-demand June 2 ~ 16, 2021*

---

# A Very Present Presence

Written by **Ann Timmons**

Directed by **Catherine Tripp**

Produced by Pipeline Playwrights

*Crystal Adaway*

Executive Producer

*Patricia Connelly*

*Nicole Burton*

*Patricia Connelly*

Producing Artistic Director

*Ann Timmons*

*Jean Koppen*

Video Editor

*Gordon Nimmo-Smith*

*Ann Timmons*

Zoom Stage Manager

*Maggie Landis*

Sound & Light Designer

*Gordon Nimmo-Smith*



Set Design

*Ann Timmons and Catherine Tripp*

Props Captain

*Patricia Connelly*

Dialogue Editor

*Matthew Allen*

Costume Designer

*Patricia Connelly*

Props Team

*Crystal Adaway*

*Allen, Lisa & Melanie Landis*

*Jennifer Pagnard*

Graphic Designer

*Crystal Adaway*

Costume Team

*Allen, Lisa & Melanie Landis*

*Ann Timmons*

*Lori Trawinski*

Sets Team

*Allen, Lisa & Melanie Landis*

*Jennifer Pagnard*

Assistant to Ms. Tripp—*Sean Flaherty*

Assistant to Ms. Cooper-Gould—*Adrian Gould*

Assistant to Ms. Pagnard—*Christian Pagnard*

## Cast

*Jennifer Pagnard*..... Alice

*Diane Cooper-Gould*..... Nell

*Erin Denman*..... Bets/Alberta/Man 1

*Nicholas -Tyler Corbin*..... Lenny/Lawrence/Man 2

## Setting

Alice's family farmhouse retreat in Groton, Massachusetts, her home in suburban Boston, and Washington, D.C.

The present, and 1917-1920.

*A Very Present Presence* is part of

Pipeline Playwrights' *Our Time, Our Stories* series.

## Series Sponsors

*Rebecca Gillan*

*The Nora Roberts Foundation*

## Special Thanks

*David Biette, Lori Trawinski, Caren Anton, Robin Covington, Katherine Stanford,*

*Carolyn Griffin and MetroStage, Alexandria, Virginia*

---

## Playwright's Note

When I began writing *A Very Present Presence*, I wanted to write a character-driven comedy that examined the theme of social and generational connection: the idea that individual choice is always shaped by experiences of/expectations from the past. This fit perfectly with another idea I was eager to explore, time as a construct. I was off and running!

I envisioned my protagonist as a norm-busting woman— carefree, rebellious — definitely not a good girl. But the good girl lurking in the shadows pushed my would-be heroine out of the way. Alice took center stage. She didn't interest me at first. But she persisted because she had a deeper story to tell. I dug and found it: the seed of a late-blooming feminist.

I wondered if her journey—her awakening—would have happened without Nell's intervention. It could have, with Bets pushing her in that direction. But using omnipresent, opinionated, obstinate Nell to help Alice see why she is who she is and how she could be and do better was more fun! Besides, letting Nell do the heavy lifting gave me the opportunity to delve into the complicated relationship we all have with time.

Art is always a conversation between present, past, and future. This play was influenced by my decades of reading American women's history, along with echoes of other stories: *The Awakening*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Our Town*, *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, and *Topper*. It's been a fun – and enlightening — world to visit.

---

---

## Director's Note

ALICE

*What are you saying? Am I losing my mind?*

NELL

*Not at all. Right now your mind is slicing through the knots that have bound you for so long. Freeing you from the wretched idea that life must be like this because Things Have Always Been This Way.*

—from *A Very Present Presence* by Ann Timmons

Realizing that the world doesn't have to be the way it has always been can be a startling experience. Whether you are becoming aware of your own privilege or becoming aware of how you are being held back, the mind will reel. I lament we can't all have our own personal Great Aunt Nell guiding us through that forest of confusion. What I hope that we have done with this production is given you a little taste of that guidance.

The elusive equality that women (and hopefully men) are seeking has been kept from women with emotional, physical, and spiritual violence. To say nothing of the violence that Black women and women of color face, too often at the hands of white women. It behooves us all to speak up for equality regardless of gender, race, religion, or abilities. If we can free ourselves from the notion of white cis heteronormative male superiority, we can make the world a better place. It starts with us and we teach it to the next generations. Let's make Crazy Aunt Nell proud (and let's get the ERA in the Constitution, too).

---

## The Cast

### Jennifer Pagnard (ALICE)

Since retiring from The U.S. Air Force in 2015, Jennifer has been working as a full-time mom and part-time professional actor. Past roles include: 'Miss Jane' *Floyd Collins* (1st Stage); 'Miss Sally' *Parade* (The Keegan Theatre); 'Mrs. Potts' *Beauty and the Beast* and 'Muddy' *Nevermore* (Creative Cauldron); 'Kitty Sunderson' *Perfect Arrangement* (DC Source Festival); 'Mrs. Catlett' *Amazing Grace* (National tour); 'Mrs. Lovett' (WATCH Award) *Sweeney Todd*, 'Mother' *Ragtime* and 'Florence' *The Odd Couple-Female Version* (The Little Theatre of Alexandria). A big fan of the Pipeline Playwrights, Jennifer is super excited to be a part of this project!

### Diane Cooper-Gould (NELL)

Diane is thrilled to be working with Pipeline again after appearing in their DC Fringe Festival production *HTWOFY 2.0* in 2019 as well as many Pipeline readings over the past 4 years. Diane has performed in/at: *Listen to Your Mother, DC*; Theater Alliance; Folger Theater; Source Theatre; Catalyst Theater; Arena Stage; The Theatre Conspiracy; Young Playwrights Theater; Gala Hispanic Theater; Actors Theater of Louisville; Cherry Red Productions; Le Neon Theater; Project Y Theatre Company; SCENA Theatre; and AddVerb Productions (touring one-woman show). Stage Combat & Movement: Source Theater Company; Arena Stage; Theatre Conspiracy; Theater Alliance; and SCENA Theater. TV/Film: *Scene*

*Queen* (San Antonio Film Festival); and *Seriously Amazing Objects* (Smithsonian Channel).

### Erin Denman (BETS/ALBERTA/MAN 1)

Erin is thrilled to be working on her first show with Pipeline Playwrights. Originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota, Erin moved to DC to get her MFA from the Academy for Classical Acting in 2018. Locally, you may have seen her with Flying V, Rorschach Theatre, and Annapolis Shakespeare.

### Nicholas-Tyler Corbin (LENNY/LAWRENCE/MAN 2)

Nicholas-Tyler Corbin is a 2017 graduate of SUNY Purchase. Off-Broadway: *Lili Marlene* (Josef) European Tour; and *Shooter* (Gavin Stewart). NYC Credits: *The Watchers* (Access Theatre); *Shooter* (Gavin Stewart) at TheatreLAB; *Ruffles* (Ruffles) at The Tank; *Bergen* (Hans); and *Long Lost John: The Lennon Story* (John Lennon) at The BBTF. Select Regional & Conservatory: *Hand To God* (Jason); *Hair* (Claude); *BENT* (Max); and *Three Sisters* (Tuzenbach). Proud alumni of The American Theatre Wing Springboard program.



## The Creative Team

### Ann Timmons, Playwright

Ann Timmons started out her career as an actor. After earning her MFA in Acting from the University of Illinois, she performed on regional stages, Off-Broadway, television and in movies. She shifted her focus to playwriting to offer more challenging roles for women. Her plays have been produced in many venues—Off-Broadway and national tour: *Off the Wall: The Life and Works of Charlotte Perkins Gilman*; Washington, D.C.: *Becoming Calvin*; National tour: *Beyond Shadowlands*; Virginia tour: *The Jamestown Adventure Express*. A founding member of Pipeline Playwrights, Ann's one-acts were produced as part of *How's That Workin' Out for Ya?* and *How's That Workin' Out For Ya? 2.0* at the Capital Fringe Festivals, 2018 and 2019, in Washington, D.C.

Ann is looking forward to the COVID-postponed professional premiere of her play about American women's suffrage, *It's My Party!* at Echo Theatre, Dallas in September, 2021. Currently living in NYC, Ann is a member of Actors' Equity Association, SAG-AFTRA, The Dramatists Guild, and Honor Roll! Find out more at [www.anntimmons.com](http://www.anntimmons.com)

### Catherine Tripp, Director

Catherine Tripp has worked with a number of companies around DC, including Source Theatre Festival and Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company. She works frequently

with play development workshops and has helped bring new works to the stage, including *Jarry* at Spooky Action Theatre and *How's That Workin' Out for Ya? 2.0* with Pipeline Playwrights. She is a proud company member of Rorschach Theatre. Catherine holds a BFA in Theatre from the University of Southern California and a M.Litt. in Theology, Imagination and the Arts from the University of St. Andrews (Scotland). Other credits include directing *Brainpeople* by Jose Rivera and *The Gallerist* by Fengar Gale, as well as being a part of the production team for a number of other productions.

### Gordon Nimmo-Smith, Technical Director

Gordon is a sound designer and video editor based in Maryland. Recent work includes video editing *Magic In Rough Spaces* for Rorschach Theatre Company, and additional sound design for *All The Devils Are Here* with Shakespeare Theatre Company. Thanks to Alex, Mairi, and Mac the Dog.

### Maggie Landis, Stage Manager

Maggie is a sophomore studying theatre at Smith College. She thanks Pipeline Playwrights for welcoming her so warmly and for allowing her to work on such a fun show. Various recent technical credits include: *Until the Flood* (Dominion Stage); *Laundry & Bourbon* (Providence Players of Fairfax); *The Producers* (The Little Theatre of Alexandria); and *The Nance* (The Little Theatre of Alexandria).

With Deepest Gratitude for Your Support

*Our Time, Our Stories* Zoom Series Sponsor ~ \$5,000+

Rebecca Gillan  
The Nora Roberts Foundation

*Our Time, Our Stories* Production Sponsor ~ \$2,500+

David and Lainey Nexon

**Pipeline Partnership Circle ~ \$500+**

Board of Lady Managers, Inova Alexandria Hospital

Paul & Patricia Kalata  
Grace & Michael Kornke  
Donna Marie Mertens  
Dean & Beverly Timmons  
The Puffin Foundation

**Pipeline Patrons ~ \$250+**

Laura Stone and David Atkins  
Ellen Cochrane  
Deborah Hensley  
Christopher Koppen  
Mary Kay Quinlan  
Lori Trawinski ~ *in memory of Caryl Connelly*  
Gail Weigl ~ *in memory of Bob Weigl*

**Pipeline Fans ~ \$50+**

Anonymous  
Caren Anton  
Lori Arbuckle  
Cathy Bergman  
*(in honor of Nicole Burton)*  
Lydia Biagioli and  
Marijke Bekaert  
David Biette  
Laura Bracken  
Sheila Brennan  
Alice & Kevin Curtin  
Martha King DaSilva  
Catherine Davis  
Kevin Dykstra  
Solvieg Eggers  
Steven Fryxell  
*(in honor of Susan B. Anthony)*  
Virginia Gano  
Arthur Gary  
Kelly Germa  
Thomas Getz  
Carl Gold  
Janice Goldblum  
Caroline Hall  
*(in honor of Mary Robb  
Settles Ferris)*  
Mary Hill  
Jolanda Jansen  
*(in memory of Carol Elkins)*  
Patricia Ann Kaup  
Victoria Levy  
Mary Morrow-Bax  
Antoinette Pavone  
Faith Potts  
Christine Rasmussen  
John Thorpe Richards, Jr.  
Karin Ringheim  
Sarah Rix  
Kathy Sawka  
Dana Semmes  
Kathleen and Ronald Sipling  
Todd Sprang  
Jann Taylor  
Daniel Thompson  
Martha Trunk  
Charlotte Tsoucalas  
Hugh and Sue Van Horn  
Rita Weinberg  
Shirley Xu

---



# PIPELINE playwrights

As a producing and writing collective, we work together to support, present, and promote the work of women playwrights. We believe theater should reflect the reality of daily life while exploring the infinite variety of our collective experiences as women. Our goal is to write and produce plays that communicate truths that bind us all together in community. In addition to three of the original co-founders, Ann Timmons, Jean Koppen, and Patricia Connelly, Pipeline Playwrights now includes Nicole Burton and Crystal Adaway.

Even though we are now more spread out geographically, we continue to meet together to nurture each other's creative work, and together we produce readings of not only our new works, but works by other women playwrights.

**If you'd like to find more information or support our growth in any way, please visit our website at [www.pipelineplaywrights.org](http://www.pipelineplaywrights.org).**

---

Pipeline Playwrights is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.  
Contributions for charitable purposes are tax-deductible  
to the extent permitted by law.

---

