

Fuse Theatre Presents

Bloom:
A Sensory Adventure

Book and Lyrics By

Danielle Koenig

Music By

Danielle Koenig and Abbie Goldberg

Devised By

Danielle Koenig

Abbie Goldberg

Irvin Mason Jr

Haleyann Hart

Elana Hershman

Our Story

Get ready to BLOOM!

Join Ant, Squirrel, Bee and Bird on a magical journey as they work together to awaken a sleeping tree.

But our critter friends can't do it alone - they need your help! On our adventure, you'll explore each part of the tree that these animals call home. We'll move our bodies, raise our voices, and work as a team to get our tree to bloom!

Adventure Guide

1. Good Morning Song
2. Explore the Roots with Ant
3. Explore the Trunk with Squirrel
4. Explore the Branches with Bee
5. Explore the Leaves with Bird
6. Good Night Song

Character Guide

Ant may be small, but they are certainly mighty! Although they might bug out sometimes, inside their grumpy exoskeleton lies a heart of gold. They're always happy to help a friend and grateful to be helped in return,

Squirrel is furry, fun...and a bit forgetful. They go nuts for nuts, but sometimes they lose track of where they've put them. They're always ready to explore, and always excited to enjoy a snack after a big adventure!

Bee is a brainy little bug who loves to share fun facts with their friends. If they're feeling extra sweet, they might even share some of their delicious honey! They're constantly buzzing with excitement and curiosity about the world.

Bird has a big heart, and it's constantly aflutter with big feelings! They love to fly far wide, spreading wings and their positivity wherever they go. Bird also loves to sing, and nothing makes them smile more than singing with their friends.

Creative Team

Danielle Koenig

Playwright, Lyricist, and Devising Artist

Danielle Koenig (they/them) is an award-winning queer, trans, disabled actor and writer with degrees from NYU's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing and UCLA's School of Theater, Film, and Television. Select recent acting projects include: Maiden Voyage (New Works Provincetown), 504: A New Musical (Disabled Down Center, Musical Theater Factory), Dance With Me (Latiné Musical Theater Lab), Strike/Out (Kitchen Sink Theater Company), Charlotte Lucas Is 27 & Not Dead (Piper Theater), and more. As a writer, their musicals and standalone songs have been seen at Lincoln Center, Rattlestick Playwright's Theater, 54 Below, and more. They are currently commissioned by the Brooklyn Children's Theater and FUSE Theatre, and their musical *The Myth of the Mountain*, with music by Justin D. Cook, has been performed at UCLA, Syracuse University, and NYU, and was a 2023 and 2024 NMTC Semifinalist.

Abbie Goldberg

Composer, Designer, and Devising Artist

Abbie Goldberg (they/she) is a trans, disabled, Jewish multidisciplinary artist from the mountains of rural Maine. This year they were proud to participate in Broadway Advocacy Coalition's Theater of Change program and to co-produced *Feisty Disabled Artists*, a cabaret in honor of disability rights activist Judy Heumann. They are an alumnus of The New Opera and Musical Theater Initiative where they workshopped and performed their full length musical *Believing Cassandra*, the Join for Justice Community Organizing Fellowship, and New York University's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing program. Their work has been performed at Lincoln Center, Rattlestick Theater, Musical Theatre Factory, Salt Tree Eco Puppetry Festival, Rockwood Music Hall, as part of *Adding Our Voices: The Jewish Feminist Songbook* and Gender Inclusion Initiative, and more. Their writing has been published by HowlRound, Autostraddle, Dame, Waif Magazine, The Theatre Times, Sinister Wisdom, AK Press and others. They are also one of the cofounders of the Jewish

drag troupe Turmohel with whom they perform under the name Chava GoodTime. They are passionate about using joy and spectacle as forces for social change.

Irvin Mason Jr.

Director and Devising Artist

Irvin Mason Jr. (he/him) Irvin is a director, actor, poet, and teaching artist born and raised in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands. His work intersects expressive movement, live music, emerging technology, and Afro-Caribbean traditions to breathe new life to physical storytelling. Irvin seeks to direct work that leaves a residue — unapologetic work that dismantles the traditional foundations of theater, and creates space for new voices to tell their own stories. Irvin is currently a Drama League Stage Directing Fellow. His recent directing credits include: Ain't Misbehavin (Gallery-Players), Stuck (Chain Theatre), and Pipeline (Gallery-Players). Assistant Directing: Gospel According to Heather (AMAS, dir. Rachel Klein). In 2023, Irvin served as a directing observer to Schele Williams on the Broadway revival of The Wiz. He was the SDCF directing shadow on Little Shop of Horrors (dir. Maggie Burrows) and Rent (dir. Lili-Anne Brown) at the MUNY. He was also the directing observer on Pup! A Chew Story (NAMT).

Haleyann Hart

Choreographer and Devising Artist

Haleyann Hart (she/her) is a choreographer, performer, and teaching artist who strives to create accessible and inclusive theatre and dance for all ages. Choreography credits include A Tale of Two Cities and A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder with Village Light Opera Group, She Loves Me at Stevens Institute, Stuck at The Chain (Audience Choice Award), Little Shop of Horrors with Color Box, and the premiere of the original musical Camp Song at UCLA. Haleyann is a ballet teacher with Tutu School Brooklyn and loves making magic with her young students! She also works for Embody Dance Conference- a convention and competition that offers mental health and mindset seminars as well as dance training to young dancers across the country. Haleyann has been with Fuse since 2020, after graduating Summa Cum Laude with her BA in Theater from UCLA where she met Elana, Irvin, and Dani. She is so grateful to be working with this team on such a special project!

Elana Hershman

Producer and Devising Artist

Elana Hershman (she/her) is a performing artist and theater-maker from the San Francisco Bay Area, now living in New York City. She has a big spot in her heart for art and people and believes that theatre is an important tool for building bridges between communities and fostering empathy. She has an artistic home at Fuse Theatre, where she devises and produces issue-driven and community-centered art and events. She is also a teaching artist and has served a diverse range of students in a variety of settings, including school classrooms, summer conservatories, and online workshops. She is currently working with New York City students big and small through Broadway Bound Kids, Treasure Trunk Theatre, and the International Girls Ensemble. She is driven to create a safe and empowering space in the arts for creatives of all ages, and she carries her commitment to accessibility and social equity through all her work.

This play was proudly developed by Fuse Theatre through the Ignite Artists Program.

Fuse Theatre creates meaningful theatre experiences to connect communities, expand perspectives, and foster civic engagement. We believe our work is made stronger by the many voices, perspectives, and experiences we bring into our projects. Our work is founded in principles of justice, equity, and inclusion for all.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is *Bloom: A Sensory Adventure*?

Bloom Together is an interactive sensory play that takes you on a magical journey alongside Bird, Bee, Squirrel, and Ant as they work together to awaken a sleeping tree on the first day of Spring.

What can I expect from *Bloom*?

Get ready for a one-of-a-kind experience! You'll join our critter friends in a hands-on adventure filled with music, movement, and sensory surprises. Together, we'll explore the wonder of nature and work together to help the tree bloom.

Is *Bloom* educational?

Yes, indeed! While having a blast, you'll also learn about the beauty of nature, the importance of teamwork, and the magic of the changing seasons. This production was developed by artists with dual theatre and teaching experience in order to create the most fun-filled and educational experience possible.

Is *Bloom* for all ages?

Bloom was designed to enchant children ages 3-7 and their adult caregivers, although people of all ages will be able to find magic and fun in this production. We ask that all children have an adult present to accompany them on our adventure.

Can you tell me about the accessibility of this show?

Of course! We want children of diverse backgrounds and abilities to be able to join us on our adventure, and we're working with an occupational therapist and disability advocate to keep accessibility at the forefront of this production.

The format of our play was designed to support diverse engagement. Instead of asking young children to sit still in a dark theatre for an extended period of time, we're presenting our play in bright, open spaces and offering lots of opportunities for our young audience members to use their bodies and voices.

Dance and movement throughout our adventure can be adapted for a range of physical abilities, and our performances incorporate a variety of kinesthetic and sensory experiences, allowing audience members to engage with our adventure beyond just the visual and auditory elements of a "traditional" theatre performance.

We understand that some guests may have sensory sensitivities. There will be a designated space at all performances for audience members who might need to step out of adventure-mode for a moment.

We're dedicated to providing an inclusive and accessible experience for children and their caregivers. If you have any specific questions or requests regarding accessibility, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team. You can contact elanah@fusetheatre.org regarding New York performances and noahrd@fusetheatre.org for California performances.

What if my child doesn't want to participate in a sensory element?

No worries! We want to meet each unique child where they're at. We're working with an occupational therapist and a disability advocate to make our interactive elements accessible to as many individuals as possible. But sensory elements are always presented as an invitation! You and your child are welcome to engage as much or as little as you'd like. We want everyone to feel comfortable and enjoy the adventure in their own way.

I know kids who would love this show! Can I bring *Bloom* at my school or community center?

Absolutely! We're looking for community partners in both New York City and the San Francisco Bay Area who would like to host performances of this magical show. Please reach out to elanah@fusetheatre.org for New York bookings or noahrd@fusetheatre.org for California bookings.

How can I prepare myself and my child for this show?

We hope that everyone will join us with an open heart and a readiness to Bloom. We have several resources available, if you would like to talk to your child about the show, including a social story and a character guide. We also ask that caregivers take a look at our props guide for key safety information about our sensory elements.