



CLAY/SLIP/GLAZE

A STORY OF FORMATION
AS TOLD BY
EASTSIDE STORY GUILD

June 1 @ 5:30pm or 8pm
Live from your living room



clay

/klā/

noun

1. a stiff, sticky fine-grained earth, typically yellow, red, or bluish-gray in color and often forming an impermeable layer in the soil. Wet clay is ready to be formed, it is the clay's most elastic state.



slip³

/slip/

noun

1. a creamy mixture of clay, water, and typically a pigment, used especially for decorating earthenware. It is created during the throwing process of pottery, and while it is extremely messy, is integral for the forming and shaping of the clay.



glaze

/glāz/

noun

1. a vitreous substance fused on to the surface of pottery to form an impervious decorative coating. The final stage in the pottery process is glazing and requires the glaze to be put in the kiln and fired. The effect is a glaze that can be glossy, shiny, colourful, and strong.

Theatre Director's Notes



Jeqn

A ZOOM PLAY?!?! Full disclosure: when we first started this process of creating an ESG play for zoom (because that was our only option!) I was NOT motivated. I was, and still am, missing being in a room with the ESG cast and crew, feeling the stage under my feet, the warmth of theatre lights on my face, hearing live music, the

energy, the chaos surrounding me, the lights going down...the visceralness of it all! And while theatres are mostly still dark in Canada, in some countries they are starting to get ready to open their doors, and I am so excited and hope-filled about this!

Anyways, back to zoom. Like most journeys I embark on, creating a zoom play surprised me. I was surprised how connected I still felt to everyone and surprised that it actually worked! When it came time to embody characters and scrounge for props and costumes at home, every actor committed. Their energy, enthusiasm and ability to bring the play to life is truly what makes this story work. And I'm so grateful we stuck with and trusted in this process and platform. Don't get me wrong - I hope I never have to do a zoom play again, but I am very grateful for the opportunity to have done it. And I am grateful to have had a part in letting the show go on. Theatre has been around for thousands of years and I hope it will continue to be around for thousands more, whether in a grand opera house, in the streets, outside, in an elevator (yes! I've seen a play in an elevator!), at Grandview church, or in your living room. I hope you enjoy our pandemic version of a play!

#theshowmustgoon

"Theatre is live, theatre is communion, theatre is something to be experienced in the flesh"

- Creators of Boca del Lupo Theatre company

Scene Notes

Clay - The Beginning

Scene: "Pottery Class" (by Kathy)

April 2020: A class of mixed ages meets on zoom to create art together. We see the influence of a good, fun and caring teacher. The journey through the wilderness of the new normal can be lonely and stressful but creating in community can still happen – even on zoom!

Featuring: Jeqn as Mrs. Jacobson, full cast

Scene: "Zoom Call Between Friends" (by Jeqn)

April 2020: Addie and her friends catch up over zoom.

Featuring: Elaine, Gabriella and Mira

Slip - The Middle

Scene: "The Letter" (by Kathy)

May 2020: Addie is feeling lost and betrayed by her mom. She is angry at being left without any warning or say in the matter. Her journey into the wilderness has just begun.

Featuring: Elaine

Scene: "Surprise Birthday Party" (by Jeqn)

May 2020: Addie's family, friends and class surprise her with a birthday party over zoom to lift her spiits.

Featuring: Drew Lewis as Dad, full cast

Glaze - The End

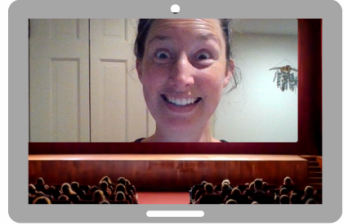
Scene: "The Final Scene" (by Kathy)

June 2020: Keven is trying to finish his pottery piece for art class. This scene is about hearing from God through others. The loving voice of God, heard through a friend, encourages us to keep going and to try again. Perhaps we will be formed anew.

Featuring: Kathy as The Voice, Awen and Gilbert

Program Director's Notes

This winter & spring, the children and teens of ESG explored stories of the trustworthy presence of God guiding God's people through the wilderness. One of the images that helped us enter into this story was that of a potter working on an



Melanie

unformed lump of clay. We imagined that we were the clay, and that sometimes it could feel wonderful but at other times it might feel awfully uncomfortable being shaped by the Potter's hands, and that there could be stages in the process where our lumpy clayness would seem an uncooperative mess, neither useful nor lovely.

This past year, in struggles for racial justice and in the suffering and inequalities of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have experienced so many moments when we are messy, inadequately formed, or uncertain of where God is leading us. Some of us may feel like clay that's been kneaded too hard or left out to dry. In these places we have the opportunity to draw our attention back from our fear and anxiety, and focus it again on the Story of God's trustworthiness.

What are the places in the world and in your life where you long to feel the shaping of God's strong, steady and patient hands? How are you being invited to receive this formation and to join together in God's forming work in the world? As you watch the ESG presentation of CLAY/SLIP/GLAZE, you are invited to hold in your imagination those messy, uncomfortable, or unformed places in your life and in the world, and to offer them into the Potter's creative and transforming hands.

The Apprentices



Aasha



Asher O.



Asher S.

The Journeymen



Anya



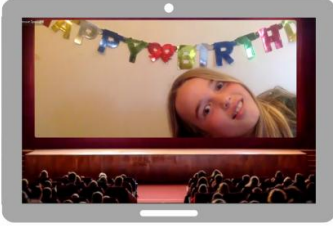
Ethan



Lilia



Mahla



Micah



Molly

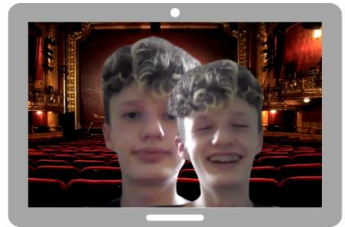


Tobias

The Masters



Elaine



Etienne



Gabriella



Matteo



Mira

The Architects

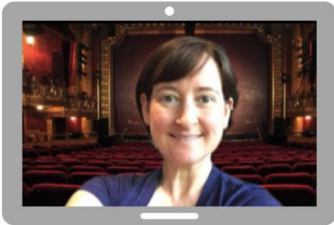


Awen

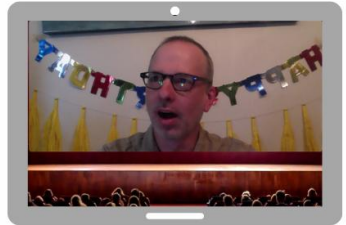


Gilbert

Dreamers & Sculptors



Caitlin, Webmaster



Drew, playing Addie's Dad



Jake, Program Support



Melody, Registrar



Kathy, Scriptwriter,
Program Support, Dramaturge

Scriptwriters' Notes

from Kathy

Our theme for this season was “being formed in the wilderness”. The key image we focused on was that of God forming his people the way a potter forms a clay vessel at her wheel. We felt this idea of journeying together in the wilderness worked perfectly with our present time of a global pandemic. The journey through this wilderness of the new normal has been very painful, stressful and anxious but having a loving teacher who encourages us to create, celebrating with our friends, and being attentive to the loving voice of God can be powerful in the midst of feeling our losses.

from Jeqn

This is a story about process. About the beginning (clay), middle (slip), and end (glaze). I was first drawn to the idea of entering our story through clay when thinking about the concept of “formation” and so to understand this process better, we spent the first few weeks of our rehearsals playing with clay and creating our own stories out of clay. Like clay, it is always the process that forms us. We begin in a natural, raw state (clay), and much of life is messy, hard to grasp, and definitely unknown (slip). But we get these glimpses of what we will be in the end. Of what is to come. Of the beauty.

One of the most interesting parts of the potter's process is dipping their clay in the glaze. Unfired glaze is nothing special to look at. It requires high heat for the tiny glass molecules in the glaze to melt and give the finished clay the beautiful colour and shine that glazed ceramics have. This story is divided up into scenes that mirror different phases of the process. We have no "finished" product or "end" to offer you. The whole point of this process is to keep going and trust that the glaze is coming. Beauty in the formation will be given to us.



Seriously, we couldn't have done it without you! Thank you to...

- The Potter, who forms us in love and creates us to create
- The Coast Salish nations on whose territories we are guests and who have cared for this land since time immemorial
- All the ESG parents & families who created space in their homes for a children & teens theatre program, wrestled with technology, and oversaw the props & costume departments with much patience
- JustPotters for providing clay and the use of their studio for filming
- Kathy for being willing to go back to the drawing board several times as our ideas for the zoom presentation morphed, and for working with Jeqn to write a heartfelt and meaningful play
- Kathy and Jake for their consistent, supportive presence with us at Tuesday zoom sessions
- Melody for her detailed Registrar record-keeping
- Caitlin for being a masterful Webmaster
- Drew for taking on the role of Dad with aplomb
- Bob for setting up our ticketing system
- Randy for sorting out the webinars
- Mira for creating the credit reel for CLAY/SLIP/GLAZE
- Grandview Church for enfolding ESG into the life of the church with physical space, funding, imagination and prayer
- Dragon Fire Foundation for generous grants over many years that make the Guild program possible
- Our faithful 'ESG Patron' monthly donors:
 - David Chariandy
 - Natasha Wallace
 - Joy Banks
 - John Koehn
 - Andrew Thrift
- The ESG Advisory Committee: Brendan, Anita, Ann-Marie, Katie, and Melody
- And you, the audience and community of ESG, for joining us as we discover where our stories and God's Story meet!



Where my story and God's Story meet



Community

Creating community
among children, teens
& adults in East
Vancouver



Performing Arts

Embodying sacred
stories in theatre,
music, movement
and dance



Resilience

Fostering wonder,
building creative skills,
& cultivating
imagination

To join in the story,
visit us at eastsidestoryguild.ca
or email esg@gcbchurch.ca



**Grandview
Church**

ESG is a ministry of Grandview Church in East Vancouver, on unceded Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh territories. We deeply appreciate the generosity with which we are welcomed in the church building, in the life of the community, and on this land.

1803 East 1st Ave
Vancouver BC, V5N 1B2
Coast Salish Territories

@esgtheatre