

Andrew

Hello everyone. This is Andrew Pond, Artistic director of Eclectic Full Contact Theatre. Welcome to Season 4 of The Half Hour Audio Hour. Every month, we'll be featuring a different playwright, allowing you to not only hear their work, but to find out a little more about them and their process. If you enjoy what you hear, please remember to like, follow, and subscribe to our podcast. And feel free to leave a review! You can help us out in continuing this work by heading over to [tinyurl.com/EFCTHHAH](http://tinyurl.com/EFCTHHAH), where you can sponsor us through a one-time or recurring donation and become our partner in highlighting the voices and stories of women, BIPOC and LGBTQ+ artists.

This month's production is "MY DAUGHTER IS A DEMON", written by Marshall Logan Gibbs, directed by EFCT company member Michelle Annette, and starring Hayley O'Toole, Dana Hall, Mia Katz, and EFCT company member Daniel Houle

Before we start, we'd like to briefly introduce you to Marshall Logan Gibbs. After the production, stay tuned for an interview with Marshall for more insight into the play and this process.

Marshall Logan Gibbs is a Baltimore-based playwright with several produced plays: SCAM ARTIST and NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY (Truest Ethos Theatre Company), MONSTER OR #ME TOO, BRUTE (Maryland Theatre Collective), MY DAUGHTER'S A DEMON (Community College of Baltimore County) and ABSTRACTED (Dover Little Theater). Public staged readings have been held at the Valdez Theatre Conference, Baltimore Playwrights Festival, Thirsty Thursdays with Theatre, Lumos Players, Variations Project, and the Baltimore Playwrights Brew. Critics have called their characters "relatable, human despite their flaws, and fully fleshed out" and their dialogue "110% believable." They are a genderfluid, queer, neurodivergent artist, and a proud member of the Dramatists Guild.

And now, My Daughter is a Demon

SFX: PAPERS RUSTLING

DR. WORMALD

Oh... OHHH... This poor girl....

SFX: DOOR OPENING

MALLORY

Hello? Sorry! Should I have waited for you to let me in, or?

DR. WORMALD

No, no. That's quite alright. Come on in, Mallory.

MALLORY

Okay. Sorry, I don't know how all this works exactly. I've never been to a shrink before. Hey- why do people call doctors shrinks anyway?

DR. WORMALD

I'm not exactly sure on the etymology-

MALLORY

Etymology... that's the study of bugs, right?

DR. WORMALD

Erm, no.

MALLORY

Well anyway this won't take long at all, I promise.

DR. WORMALD

Why do you say that?

MALLORY

I know what I need. We don't need to, like, dissect my brain or anything. I'm good.

DR. WORMALD

That is... good to hear.

MALLORY

I have great insight to my psyche. People tell me that a lot. Like every therapist I've ever had, and even friends at school, they all tell me I have this, like, emotional insight and psychological insight. I'm just really good at that. What do you think, Dr. Wormald? I mean, you're the psychologist.

DR. WORMALD

Psychiatrist.

MALLORY

Oh, same thing, whatever.

DR. WORMALD

(sotto)

Twelve years it took.

(aloud)

So, where shall we start, Mallory?

MALLORY

I need medication.

DR. WORMALD

I see. You need medication because you're feeling...?

Depressed? Anxious?

MALLORY

'Cause I feel like my Mom is a bitch.

DR. WORMALD

Let's not use, erm... generalizing terms...

MALLORY

Well, generally she's a bitch. A big general bitch.

DR. WORMALD

I'm empathetic to your feelings that she acts like a-

MALLORY

A bitch. It feels like she's a bitch because she IS a bitch, like factually.

DR. WORMALD

I... appreciate your candor.

MALLORY

Candor? Like the bird?

DR. WORMALD

No. Um- what makes you feel that your mom is-?

MALLORY

A bitch. It should be in your file there.

DR. WORMALD

Yes. I see your... colorful intake papers.

MALLORY

Told ya I have good insight. I know you got all the information you need right in your file. Don't need to hash it out any more. I just need some meds.

DR. WORMALD

Medication for what, exactly?

MALLORY

Anxiety attacks. Panic attacks. Just all of those fun attacks.

DR. WORMALD

I see.

MALLORY

(mimicking)

I see.

(no longer mimicking)

You really do sound like a doctor.

DR. WORMALD

I am a doctor.

MALLORY

I know, and you sound like one.

DR. WORMALD

Why shouldn't I sound like a doctor?

MALLORY

You SHOULD sound like a doctor. I'm just pointing out-

DR. WORMALD

Are you diagnosed with ADHD?

MALLORY

No.

DR. WORMALD

You are now. I'm writing you a script for Adderall.

MALLORY

No, no! I need something for my panic attacks. Adderall won't help with panic attacks! I think I should know. I've been googling medications for days-

DR. WORMALD

What's provoking your panic attacks?

MALLORY

My mom!

DR. WORMALD

Okay. Let's talk about your mother.

MALLORY

I told you I don't want to talk about my mom because you already know everything you need to know about my mom in my file! I don't want to talk all about her for no reason? How does that make sense? I'm paying you for your time and we're just... wasting minutes!

DR. WORMALD

We are definitely wasting minutes.

How about this? You catch me up on why your mom is a bitch and how that affects your mood, then I have reasonable justification for prescribing you Prozac. In thirty minutes, we can both be going home.

MALLORY

Okay, fine. Well... First off, she thinks I have demons inside of me.

DR. WORMALD

...right.

MALLORY

She always just jumps to the demons. It's like, ingrained in her. She grew up in a little fire and brimstone church, so like all that demon stuff is stuck in her brain, you know?

DR. WORMALD

Your file says there were exorcisms performed when you were Young-

MALLORY

Oh yeah, she's been trying to expel my demons since I was potty-training! As a kid, you know, I'd have tantrums. But every kid has tantrums, that don't mean I'm possessed!

DR. WORMALD

Of course not.

MALLORY

You think the devil's gonna kick and scream that she ain't allowed to eat a whole sleeve of Oreos for breakfast?

DR. WORMALD

No, that's preposterous.

MALLORY

That's the kind of shit I'd be throwing tantrums about. Just stupid stuff. And she'd back me into a corner and throw her "holy water" at me. It's just from the bathtub, bitch! How's that holy?

DR. WORMALD

Have things escalated in recent years?

MALLORY

Ohhh yeah. I mean, of course this was gonna give me a panic disorder, man. I'm a junior in high school and I've got the stress of school and my part-time job and of course the fact that my mom quite literally thinks there's a fucking demon inside me.

SFX: PEN ON PAPER

DR. WORMALD

Sorry, I just need to get this all down.

(writing)

Fucking... Demon... Inside...

Where do you work?

MALLORY

Chuck-E-Cheese.

DR. WORMALD

What is your position there?

MALLORY

Chuck-E. I'm Chuck-E. Charles Entertainment Cheese.

DR. WORMALD

I didn't know he had a full name.

MALLORY

He made it up himself. There's lore, you know, we get trained on Chuck-E's backstory when we start there. Chuck-E was an orphan with no name. He didn't even know when his own birthday was. So he made it his duty to celebrate everyone ELSE'S birthday.

SFX: MALLORY CRIES.

MALLORY (CONT'D)

What a rat! You know! What a damn good diamond rat to do that! Screw Ratatouille and his smug stupid face. Chuck-E is THE rat. The best of the rats. Thinking of everyone else even though he had it rough. Even though his rat family left him out to dry.



DR. WORMALD

And you, erm, "play" Chuck-E?

MALLORY

FUCK. I AM Chuck-E.

SFX: MALLORY BREATHING HEAVILY

MALLORY (CONT'D)

Oh... Oh God, here it comes.

DR. WORMALD

Let's take a breath now, shall we? Count down from ten?

MALLORY

I can count down from a thousand but it's never gonna help, doc. It's never gonna change cause my mom says I have.... a literal.... fucking demon inside of me!!!

DR. WORMALD

Mallory. Mallory, listen. You don't have a demon inside of you. Your mother has absolutely no reason to say that.

MALLORY

She says when I'm upset my eyes go black and they're wide as saucers!

DR. WORMALD

Your... pupils are naturally dark. A dark brown, I think. That doesn't mean-

MALLORY

She says she can smell sulfur on my breath, straight from hell.

DR. WORMALD

Well, how often do you brush your teeth?

MALLORY

Mom even says my horns are coming in!

SFX: BRUSHING HAIR BACK

DR. WORMALD

Those are cysts. You should get that checked out by your primary care-

MALLORY

Look, I know it's ridiculous. Okay? I understand how ridiculous it is. But this is every day of my life. And it's not ridiculous when it's happening in real time. It's not.

DR. WORMALD

I understand. I do. And I have an idea.

I want you to take a seat here, Mallory. I want you to take a look at yourself in the mirror. A nice, long look. But... and here's the key... take all judgment out of it. Just try now, to look at yourself, without judgment.

MALLORY

Judgment from my mom?

DR. WORMALD

From your mom, yourself, from anyone.

MALLORY

Okay.

SFX: MALLORY SITS

DR. WORMALD

Don't strain too hard. Just look, simply, without-

MALLORY

It's all judgment, Dr. Wormald. That's all I see.

DR. WORMALD

You see a demon? In the mirror? In yourself?

MALLORY

I see someone who has been hurt. I see someone who has been failed so much, that failure is all she knows. And now she's failing at everything she does. She's stumbling, but doesn't even know which direction to go... she's stumbling in ALL directions at once. She's-

SFX: MALLORY BREATHING HEAVILY. DR WORMALD PULLS HER FROM MIRROR

MALLORY (CONT'D)

Oh... OH GOD....

DR. WORMALD

Okay, no more mirrors! We'll readjust! Different direction, no worries! Would you like something to drink?

MALLORY

You got a cocktail menu?

DR. WORMALD

I mean water. We have cucumber water in the lobby.

MALLORY

Who wants vegetables in their water?

DR. WORMALD

It's... refreshing... Nevermind... Let's see here.

SFX: RETRIEVING AND PAGING THROUGH BOOK

DR. WORMALD (CONT'D)

Have you ever read *The Demon-Haunted World* by Carl Sagan?

MALLORY

Did they make it into a movie?

DR. WORMALD

No. It's about how every supernatural phenomenon throughout history can be explained away with the scientific method and with reasoning. He called it baloney detection.

MALLORY

Like the lunch meat?

DR. WORMALD

No. Or, well, yes but... he gave explanation as to how the world has gotten so absurd. How the real fantastical things about life aren't found in faith healings and alien abductions, but in true curiosities founded in science.

MALLORY

Okay, but what did Carl Wheezer say about demons?

DR. WORMALD

Carl SAGAN talked about the history of demonology. All of those women in Salem that confessed to witchcraft and working with the devil? They were tortured and forced to say that. They had no choice, you see? They had no say. It's proof of nothing.

MALLORY

My drama club did *The Crucible* last year, I know what's up. What does Carl Reiner have to do with-

DR. WORMALD

Carl SAGAN explained how our political and culture war on witchcraft and demons is absurd. Still, to this day, polls have found that over 50% of Americans believe in demons. Literal, spiritual demons that are to blame for all our vices and sin. It's insanity, Mallory.

MALLORY

So you're saying-

DR. WORMALD

I'm saying your mother is wrong. She is swept up in the mania of pseudoscience and you are suffering for it and I am so sorry for you.

SFX: Dr. Wormald hands Mallory a copy of the book.

DR. WORMALD (CONT'D)

Keep it. Please.

MALLORY

You're sure there's not a movie?

DR. WORMALD

I'm sure.

MALLORY

Okay, I'll try.

Can I get my Prozac now?

DR. WORMALD

Is your mother in the lobby?

MALLORY

She is. And she's not happy about it.

DR. WORMALD

Because she believes-

MALLORY

That psychology is bullshit? Yeah. She says that about a lot of things. "Science is stupid, faith is phenomenal."

DR. WORMALD

Sagan rolls in his grave.

MALLORY

Who?

DR. WORMALD

Nevermind. I'd like to talk to her.

MALLORY

I don't know if she would want to-

DR. WORMALD

It is for your safety, Mallory. I need to make sure you're safe in that house. Is there anyone else you could stay with? Your father?

MALLORY

Uhh... I never met my dad, but we have a neighbor that house-sat for us once?

DR. WORMALD

That's not what I mean, erm... We will figure it out. Just, please bring your mother in, if you can. Please, Mallory. I need to see her myself to help you best.

MALLORY

Okay. I'll try.

SFX: MALLORY EXITS> DRINK POURS

LINDA

No! This was your idea! You can have some quack telling you what to think if that's what YOU want, but that shit ain't for me! I don't respect 'em! I'll tear her to shreds!

SFX: DOOR OPENING

LINDA (CONT'D)

Hi.

DR. WORMALD

Please sit, Ms...?

LINDA

Linda. Just call me Linda. We can make this fast and easy.

DR. WORMALD

I just had some questions about Mallory and-

LINDA

She is a handful with her... what do you call it, Mallory honey?

MALLORY

Panic disorder.

LINDA

Her panic disorder. So, I'm just trying to do the motherly thing and support her.

DR. WORMALD

You support her getting treatment, then?

LINDA

Well, I drove the girl, didn't I?

DR. WORMALD

If I prescribe her medication, you will make sure it gets picked up? You will support her in taking it daily?

LINDA

Sure. Sure.

DR. WORMALD

You seem distressed, Linda.

LINDA

Just pump her full of drugs. You know what might really calm her down? Heroin! Why not! Pump her full, who cares!

DR. WORMALD

You don't believe in modern medicine.

LINDA

I DO believe in modern medicine. For most people.

DR. WORMALD

Just... not for your own daughter?

LINDA

Oh, my daughter, my daughter. She does need help, of course.

MALLORY

I'm right here!

LINDA

But you can't give her the help she needs.



DR. WORMALD

So, a stay at a hospital? Would that make a difference?

MALLORY

I don't wanna go to a hospital!

LINDA

No, it would not.

DR. WORMALD

What do you suggest for her, then? What treatment do you see fit, Linda?

LINDA

I can tell you're the judgmental type. You're only asking so you can judge me. Think you're better 'cause you read books.

DR. WORMALD

We're all here to help Mallory. Let's conciliate here.

LINDA

I don't know anything about con-say-lin-ate-ing and you know that. You're trying to confuse me with big fancy stupid doctor words so I just agree with whatever hogwash you're trying to put on my daughter.

DR. WORMALD

I have heard about some of your home remedies, Linda. I just want to understand why you feel the need to... exorcise her.

LINDA

Because she's got demon blood!

DR. WORMALD

I see.

MALLORY

Told ya, doc. Now can you make with the Prozac?

DR. WORMALD

Linda, I can assure you that my professional opinion is that your daughter is entirely healthy. Except for the cysts on her head. Likely benign, but that's not my area of study.

LINDA

Them are horns! She is a d-e-m-e-n.

DR. WORMALD

Mallory, you may want to wait in the lobby.

MALLORY

Nah, doc, I've heard it all before, I'm fine right here.

DR. WORMALD

Mallory is perfectly healthy, Linda. Her brain moves fast, she can get overwhelmed, and sometimes that leads to panic... but that isn't the end of the world. I see it all the time.

LINDA

You don't understand.

DR. WORMALD

It's my job to understand.

LINDA

No, no, you... REALLY don't understand...

DR. WORMALD

I understand that there is no such thing as demons. I have something that can help you, Linda. I'm going to recommend you read *The Demon-Haunted World* by Carl-

LINDA  
I fucked the Devil!

DR. WORMALD  
You...?

LINDA  
I slept with the Devil.

DR. WORMALD  
Sagan talked about this. The history of the succubus. Guilt about sex is a common theme in so many religions, so it makes sense that you would interpret this as-

LINDA  
I'm talkin' literally, doc. Me and the devil got it on.

DR. WORMALD  
Uh...

LINDA  
We didn't do anything crazy! It was... mostly missionary, ironically.

MALLORY  
Gross!

LINDA  
But Mallory... the Devil's your daddy. I'm sorry you had to find out this way.

MALLORY  
Doctor Wormald?

DR. WORMALD  
Yes, Mallory?

MALLORY

You look really concerned.

DR. WORMALD

I am, Mallory.

Ms. Linda, do you "sleep with the Devil" often?

LINDA

Just the once.

DR. WORMALD

Why... did you... uh-

LINDA

I was into bad boys. You know when you're in your twenties, you don't have nothin' figured out. You want some excitement. Satan seemed like a bad boy... the... baddest boy...

DR. WORMALD

If you don't mind, I'm going to prescribe a little something for you too. And maybe something for myself.

LINDA

You don't believe me. Typical atheist doctor.

DR. WORMALD

I encourage my patients to follow whatever religion they are drawn to, as long as it doesn't endanger themselves or anyone else. Unfortunately, this seems to be hurting both of you dearly.

LINDA

I'm trying to PROTECT my daughter. I've tried everything I can to get the demon outta her, but it's just... it's a part of her. I want her to grow up normal.

MALLORY

Well, that ship has sailed.

LINDA

I'm sorry Mallory. I really am. I've tried to be the best momma I can be, considering.

MALLORY

Considering you're crazy.

LINDA

You gonna let her speak to me like this, doc?

DR. WORMALD

Linda. You cannot seriously believe your daughter is the spawn of Satan.

LINDA

She is!

DR. WORMALD

That is such a terrible, abusive thing to say!

LINDA

But it's the truth!

DR. WORMALD

I'm moments away from calling the authorities. I don't believe you're fit as a parent.

LINDA

Is that your professional opinion?

DR. WORMALD

It's a professional fact. She is not safe around you. I'll take her in myself if I have to!

MALLORY

Like Matilda and Miss Honey.

DR. WORMALD

You will not endanger Mallory anymore. I will make that my duty.

LINDA

I didn't want to do this... but I guess you've forced my hand...

SFX:LINDA GETTING OUT OF CHAIR, SMOKE and HEAT UNDER NEXT LINES

DR. WORMALD

Mallory, run to the lobby, she may be dangerous.

LINDA

(in Latin)

Ego sono, sono. Vocans satanam. Responde vocationem.

(in English)

Don't just send me to voice mail! Pick up!

MALLORY

What is she doing?!

DR. WORMALD

I've never seen anything like this. Has she ever done this at home?

MALLORY

No! Never!

LINDA

(in Latin) Responde vocationem. Multos annos ante sexus aspero habuimus. Minima respondi mea voco refero facere potes.

(in English)

If you don't answer me, I swear!

DR. WORMALD

She could be dangerous! Stand behind me! Now, Mallory, stand behind me!

LINDA

(in Latin)

Ego sono, sono. Vocans satanam!!!

SFX: POOF of SMOKE/FIRE

DEVIL

Sup.

LINDA

Hey, Bub.

DEVIL

Beelzebub, Linda. Please.

LINDA

Oh I think we're past that.

DEVIL

What's this about? Child support? I know I've been behind, but I swear at God it's coming.

LINDA

No, stupid, it's not about the child support.

DEVIL

Then what? I was in the middle of an Uber ride.

LINDA

You're driving for Uber now? That's not even a real job. No wonder the support checks aren't coming in-

DEVIL

Uber IS a real job when you do it eight hours a day, Linda!

MALLORY

I'm sorry - the Devil drives for Uber?!

DEVIL

Pain doesn't pay like it used to. Gotta supplement my income. Wait... I recognize those horns. Is she?

LINDA

Yeah, she's yours. Her name's Mallory.

DEVIL

Holy hell! I haven't seen you since you was a baby! Come here and give your old man a squeeze!

MALLORY

I... I don't understand...

DEVIL

(a la Hagrid)

Yer a demon, Mallory.

MALLORY

No... no... this isn't gonna be some Hagrid and Harry Potter shit.

DEVIL

You know my books? The Fundamentalists always said Harry Potter was the devil's work. They were right! But I didn't have anything to do with Dungeons and Dragons, I swear.



MALLORY

Cut it out! You two are... seriously... telling me that you... that I...

DEVIL

Yes. You are the spawn of Satan.

(to Linda)

It's always weird saying your own name out loud. It's like it just becomes a word, you know? Satan. Saaaay.... taaaan....

MALLORY

So what? Do I have to take over one day? Like Little Nicky?

DEVIL

No! Adam Sandler gave us a bad rap! You don't need to do anything, little spawn. There's thousands of you out there.

MALLORY

Just living out in the world?! Doing what?!

DEVIL

Politics mostly. YouTube pranksters. Televangelists, isn't that ironic?

MALLORY

Do I have... powers?

DEVIL

Nah. Well, actually, you can have a fever of like 104, and feel absolutely fine. You probably sleep with a fan on, don't ya?

MALLORY

Yeah.

DEVIL

Me too. Me too.

Listen, uh... what was your human name again?

MALLORY

Mallory.

DEVIL

Mallory. Being a spawn of Satan isn't so bad. In fact, there's perks. We do a coupon book every year and the discounts are devilishly wild! More to the point... it doesn't have to define you.

MALLORY

Mom seems to think it does.

DEVIL

Well, take me for instance. I was supposed to be an angel! But just look at me now. Ruler of the underworld.

LINDA

Driving for Uber.

DEVIL

I'll smite you, Linda. I really will.

MALLORY

Dad-

DEVIL

Mallory. You create your own destiny. You can do whatever you want with your life. Be whoever you want to be. Do you hear me?

MALLORY

Thanks Satan.

DEVIL

You got it, kiddo. I've got, uh... souls to devour. You know how it be. Catch ya later, spawn! Satan out.

SFX: FIZZLING FIRE

DEVIL (CONT'D)

That's embarrassing. I'll, uh... just go out the front.

SFX: WALK TO DOOR< TRY TO OPEN< FAIL

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Ah. Push, not pull. I invented those!

SFX: DOOR OPEN/CLOSE

LINDA

You feel better now?

MALLORY

Yeah... I think I do.

DR. WORMALD

Everything... I ever knew... has been discredited, discounted, and discarded.

LINDA

Take a chill pill, doc.

DR. WORMALD

In five minutes, my entire life has been made a lie. I... must reject everything I ever knew to be true...

MALLORY

If it helps, Dr. Wormald, I feel all better. I think your treatment worked.

DR. WORMALD

Treatment?! I didn't do anything! I just watched in horror  
as... as a being of pure evil... infiltrated MY sanctum!  
Tossed every fact of science and reason in the trash!

MALLORY

Don't feel so bad.

DR. WORMALD

How can I not?!

SFX: RENZIED SCRIBBLING

MALLORY

What are you writing?

DR. WORMALD

A couple dozen prescriptions! FOR EVERYONE! EVERYONE ON  
EARTH! YOU GOT YOUR PROZAC MALLORY, YOU GET YOUR FUCKING  
PROZAC!

SFX: PAPER TEARING OFF A PAD

MALLORY

No need, doctor. Like I said, I feel a lot better.  
It'll be okay. I'm sorry Carl's Jr. didn't get it right.

DR. WORMALD

CARL SAGAN!!!! I'm gonna be sick!!!!

SFX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS, DOOR OPEN/CLOSE

LINDA

What's her problem?

MALLORY

No idea.

LINDA

Ugh. Doctors.

MALLORY

I gotta tell ya Mom, I'm still confused about one thing. If being a demon isn't all that bad, why were you trying to exorcise me?

LINDA

I'm a Christian, honey. I thought I had to. But I'm starting to see now... demon spawn or not, you're still my little girl. That's what matters most.

MALLORY

Awww.

LINDA

I'll stop trying to change you.

MALLORY

That's all I ever wanted.

LINDA

Come here, baby.

Oh, Mallory. Sulphur breath!

Andrew

Thank you for listening to My Daughter is a Demon, here on The Half Hour Audio Hour. Next up is a brief interview we conducted with Marshall Logan Gibbs after the recording of this show.

Andrew

So the first thing, Marshall, that I want to say is thank you so much for letting Eclectic be part of your show. My daughter is a demon. We really do appreciate it.

Marshall

Thank you, I'm I'm very excited to be here.

Andrew

Excellent. So the first question I have is how long have you been writing?

Marshall

Well, you know, I can give the writer answer that, you know, I've been coming up with stories since I was a kid and everything. um But I found playwriting in college. um I had a great professor that gave me a chance to workshop a musical that I was kind of writing in my bedroom. And I'd never put my work in front of an audience before. And that was the experience that really, really solidified because I found myself more engaged in the developmental process and getting to see actors work and bring their own choices into the room and rewriting based on their choices and based on what they were bringing to it. And and I just fell in love with the the developmental process and how collaborative playwriting is.

Andrew

That's awesome. and you're right. ah the second most popular answer to how long have you been writing after? I've been writing since I was a child in college.

Marshall

Right. Well, yeah, obviously.

Andrew

that's That's usually that's usually where it where where it comes in. But it's amazing that you got the chance to workshop something as big as a musical that early.

Marshall

Yeah, and now like, yeah, like I said, it was me in my bedroom with my keyboard. um And then we, we, ah but, but we had a full cast, you know, we had 12 people up there bringing it to life and, and I was just, I was so thankful for, for that opportunity.

Andrew

That's awesome.

Marshall

Yeah.

Andrew

Well, so my next question is what inspired my daughter is a demon?

Marshall

Um, I don't know how much trauma dumpings allowed on this podcast, uh, so I can leave it. I can keep it simple to say, um, you know, I did have a mother that conflated mental health issues with, you know, fire and brimstone and demons. And, and after shutting a lot of tears about it, I thought it would be more productive to, you know, make something of it and turn it into a comedy and kind of laugh at how ridiculous it is in retrospect. Um, Make art from pain, you know.

Andrew

i Yeah. Well, that is ah that is historically where all the best comedy comes from.

Marshall

Damn right.

Andrew

um Yeah. It's very funny because I was about to say, please don't tell me this is a true story. um And it's that's that's that's very heartening to hear.

Marshall

I have not met the devil. um Right.

Andrew

um but yeah. I found it interesting that um it didn't go the direction that I had expected it to go with you know the whole concept of, okay, the mom's crazy.

Marshall

Yeah, I mean, something I've tried to do here is give every character their chance to be the crazy one and be the odd one out. um You know, at first we we kind of think the daughter may be, and then it's the mother, and then it's the psychiatrist. And it kind of evolves who's really the right one in the situation.

Andrew

Right,

Marshall

It evolves through the play, so.

Andrew

right it's it's it's fun when you, especially in such a short show, when you're able to mess with people's expectations that much within such a limited scope, that's that's a lot of fun.

Marshall

i Yeah. Yeah, I mean, I've definitely had that psychiatry session. And that is a therapy session. ah Family therapies like that, man. Everyone gets to be the odd one out and everyone gets to be the crazy one in the room. And so that's definitely that's where that comes from.

Andrew

Excellent. So what is it that you... Well, first off, have you written for for audio prior to this?

Marshall

Um, very, very little, not not really.

Andrew

Okay.



Marshall

um But this was um this was such a cool experience. I mean, I got to listen to the rehearsal and, you know, as a playwright, we have to get used to, you know, the vision in our head. When we get into the room, we have to adjust that vision, you know, based on you know, the stage and where we're at. and ah But it's so great to close my eyes and I can visualize everything perfectly.

Andrew

Right.

Marshall

When I heard the actors reading, it was just, I'd never experienced something like that where I could just, it was exactly what I imagined. It was just, it was great.

Andrew

That's wonderful. so, do you think that you're going to be writing more for this medium moving forward?

Marshall

I, I, Absolutely. Well, because I was thinking, you know, because a lot of my other plays are a little less supernatural. um And so I've definitely been playing with more of those ideas that I probably couldn't do in a black box.

Andrew

yeah

Marshall

um Yeah, I'm working. I'm working on a couple of things right now that I think would be really cool for audio drama. So I'm definitely thinking through that.

Andrew

Excellent. Well, what from that, since you are sort of working in that direction, what are some of the things that um as far as writing for that, what are some of the challenges that you see writing for audio as opposed to writing for the stage? I mean, we've seen, we've seen the good thing about it is that you know I can do whatever I want that I couldn't do in a 40 seat black box. But what are some of the challenges for writing for audio as opposed to writing for stage?

Marshall

Well, I think the thing that you know like I can't I can't put as much in is I love the physical comedy. And my last play was filled with sight gags and slips and falls and crazy costumes. you know um And that stuff kind of falls wayside when you're making audio.

Marshall

um a little bit more, but I try to make up for it with the word play and keep the jokes coming, you know, so.

Andrew

Mm hmm. Mm hmm. That's good. I've never met a pun I didn't like. So I like that.

Marshall

Right.

Andrew

ah So um speaking of the future, um do you have any projects that are upcoming that you'd like to promote?

Marshall

Um, sure. Yeah, we're, we're in rehearsals right now. If, uh, any listeners are near Baltimore or DC, um, I have a full length coming out in October. It's called monster or hashtag me too Brute. Uh, it's Julia Caesar online.

Andrew

but Oh man.

Marshall

But we did a reading of it at the Valdez Theater Conference back in June, and and it went really well. And now we're going into full production. It's it's a group called the Maryland Theater Collective. um You can find them on Instagram and Facebook and all the socials.

Andrew

Awesome. And when that, when is that going to be, when is that going to open?

Marshall

Yeah, it's October 10th through 13th. It's one extended weekend.

Andrew

ah Cool cool So this of course brings me to my the most important question of the entire interview um as we've as we've ah Confirmed earlier in the interview you have not in fact met the devil so Well He hasn't admitted to it. other than yours, and I have to say I really love the way that you've you've kind of characterized the devil in this play. um

Marshall

Deadbeat dad.

Andrew

As every kind of like, dude, what?

Marshall

Yeah.

Andrew

I'm just like, you know, in my van trying to find myself. um Other than yours, what what has been your sort of like favorite conceptualization of the devil in entertainment since you know he's he's rife he's rife for being brought into into movies and stuff and plays and et cetera. So what what has been your favorite that you've seen so far?

Marshall

ah Yeah, I'm a sucker for South Park. So, you know, you can't beat it. ah I mean, in the film, he does that whole Alan Menkin style Disney, I want song and that image just stuck with me.

Andrew

Yes.

Marshall

I definitely wanted a little bit of that empathetic devil um and and my devil here in the show, so.

Andrew

him and his on again, off again with Saddam Hussein.

Marshall

Exactly.

Andrew

Yeah.

Marshall

Apparently they tortured Saddam in real life with the movie. They would just play it on repeat.

Andrew

Oh, wow.

Marshall

Yeah.

Marshall

Just all day, just South Park.

Andrew

ah Wow. That's an interesting That's an interesting laurel to put in to put in one's wreath for Matt and Trey.

Marshall

That'll do it. Yeah. Right.

Andrew

It's like, well, you know hey, our our our movie is is torture material. It's awesome.  
um

Marshall  
Yeah. Anyway.

Andrew  
Yeah, moving on. um Well, I just want to say once again, Marshall, this was so much fun. It was such a great script. and i And I know that all the actors had an absolute blast doing it. We've had a lot of fun working on it. And I just want to say once again, thank you so much for letting us be part of it. And on behalf of myself and everybody at Andrew, I just want to say thank you so much.

Marshall  
Thank you. I've had a blast too and ah looking forward to hearing the whole shebang a couple weeks.

Andrew  
We hope you enjoyed My Daughter is a Demon. Next month, we will be presenting Welcome to Silvervein State Park by Harlow Buntin, And don't forget to head over to [eclectic-theatre.com](http://eclectic-theatre.com) to find out about all our other shows and projects.  
On behalf of myself and everyone here at EFCT, thanks for listening