

Dana Aber's

Baggage at the Door

an original solo-musical unpacking the process one woman pursued
to put aside her past traumas & love the present



*When falling in love triggers her latent PTSD,
she might be **f*#&ed**.*

CONTACT

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The Show

The poisonous-fish induced coma,
the tropical-disease-laden mosquito bite,
the collision with an on-coming train,
the horrifying monster who preyed in her
house – 4 consecutive Januaries with 4 near
death experiences... Happy New Year!!



While hiding in plain sight, a bright-eyed
survivor becomes the poster child for
high-functioning PTSD.

Rather than fall victim to her trauma, the
haunted girl braces herself in an emotional
stronghold of her own making.



All good...until the next January, when The Girl's protective barricades are blown to
bits when she falls in love. If this scorched survivor can't connect, she may miss
this chance at a future laced with the hope (and happiness) she deserves.



On a spare stage, richly textured with immersive sound and animated projections, The Girl tap dances while eating cheese, drenches herself in protective rhinestones, and enlists the audiences' guidance on a deeply honest and heart-gripping journey.



Hailed as a deeply moving with infectious original songs, 'Baggage at the Door' is a disarmingly well-crafted look at healing from trauma.

Broadway World.com

Baggage at the Door is a one woman musical complete with gaffs and guffaws, candidly exploring one person's attempt to break the PTSD trauma cycle and find the courage to finally unpack.





With candid charm and self-deprecating wit, creator Dana Aber flits from one area of her trauma to another, exposing the soft-belly of her fears and looking sideways at her barely-buried rage, all the while keeping the audience engaged with her tenured, honest performance.

I. Shamas, NYC



About the Creator

[Dana Aber](#) is a performer, producer, collaborator, and creator. Theatrically, she's played across the country and across the seas, and has been seen in NYC Off-Broadway, at The Dixon Place, NYFringe Festival, NYMF, Apollo Theatre, and FDCAC/Classical Theatre of Harlem. A strong advocate for the development of new musicals, she has been involved in countless presentations at New Dramatists, NYU Tisch, Dramatists Guild, & Ars Nova. As a writer, she pulls from personal experience to share her theatrical solo plays *Baggage at the Door* and *FINAL BLOW*, as well as her online comedic *Quarantined Waitress* video series. Dana is currently in collaboration with Mika Kauffman (they/he) on a new show about disassociation, and Dana is also developing a soloshow for her brother, Broadway's Drew Aber (he/him), about identity exploration through video games. Through her [Big Thunder Productions](#) company, Dana has created and helmed 8 concert-cabarets, most notably the bi-coastal *#YesAllWomen Raise Your Voice* concert joining artists within the movement for gender equality. She is a survivor and advocate, and is honored to be able to use her voice to share for those who cannot. www.DanaAber.com



Creator's note:

"*Baggage at the Door* is a personal story focused on the end of a 7- year cycle of PTSD destruction and reconstruction. The personal traumas that caused my post-traumatic stress are specific (and almost unbelievable), but the understanding of trauma and the recovery from it is universally human. Everybody has some ouchy skeletons in the closet, so to speak. I'm proud to be able to offer this honest story of a person bracing to face the next challenge of recovery—and all the giggles that come along with it!"

When falling in love triggers her latent PTSD, she might be **f*#&ed**.



Creative Team

Direction & Dramaturgy by Joe Langworth.



Director, Choreographer and Writer, Joe Langworth has made a career in theatre for over 25 years. He has collaborated with some of theatre's finest talent, including Bartlett Sher and Christopher Gattelli on the Tony Award winning revival of *South Pacific* and Sheryl Kaller on the Tony nominated play *Next Fall*. From his start performing on Broadway in A CHORUS LINE, to casting productions such as Lincoln Center Theatre's SOUTH PACIFIC, to directing critically acclaimed new works and classics alike, Joe remains passionate about the transcendent power of theatre.

Director's note:

"Most of us can recall a moment that shook us to our cores; a moment that created a lasting impression on our psyches and continues to influence how we engage with the world. *Baggage at the Door* is a story about trauma -- surviving it, facing it and finding a way to move forward with it. And what better way to do that...than with humor.



It was our intention to allow laughter into this story to make it accessible and identifiable to the audience. Partnered with honest story-telling and the healing capacity of music, *Baggage at the Door* creates a unique evening that is both reflective and cathartic. By witnessing one person's reckoning with their past, we hope our audiences will leave the theatre a little lighter, having left some of their own personal baggage at the door."

Songs for *Baggage at the Door* were created for the show through collaboration with Ms. Aber, using her essays as source material.

Composer/Lyricist Collaborators

[James Ballard](#), [Christie Baugher](#), [Alanya Bridge](#), [Amy Burgess](#) & [Sara Cooper](#), [Rachel Dean](#), [Thomas Jacobsen](#), [Mika Kauffman](#), [Teresa Lotz](#), [Martha Miller](#), and [Joseph Trefler](#).

Original Art was devised for the production by and through collaboration with Ms. Aber, using digital and pencil sketch, animation, and collage techniques.

Visual Artist Collaborators

[Jamie Gaul](#), [Josh Haplea](#), [Chelsey Hill](#), [Nichola Latzgo](#), [Annie Moor](#), [Bee Michael](#), [Dr. Natalie J. Russ](#), and Dana Aber.



Development History

July 2018

4 new songs presented as part of Duplex Theatre's In the Works concert, NYC

August 2018

Workshop presentation at the Dixon Place Lounge, NYC

October 2018

Two workshop shows at The PIT Loft, NYC, 2nd show was sold to capacity.

November 2018

Song featured in the [MusiColab](#) new musical theatre Salon, Philadelphia

December 2018

One-night special presentation performance at the Dixon Place Mainstage, NYC

April 2019

Official Selection 2019 [The ONE Festival](#) at Teatro LATEA, NYC
Direction & Dramaturgy by Joe Langworth



June 2019

Invitation to perform at United Solo Festival, Theatre Row, NYC

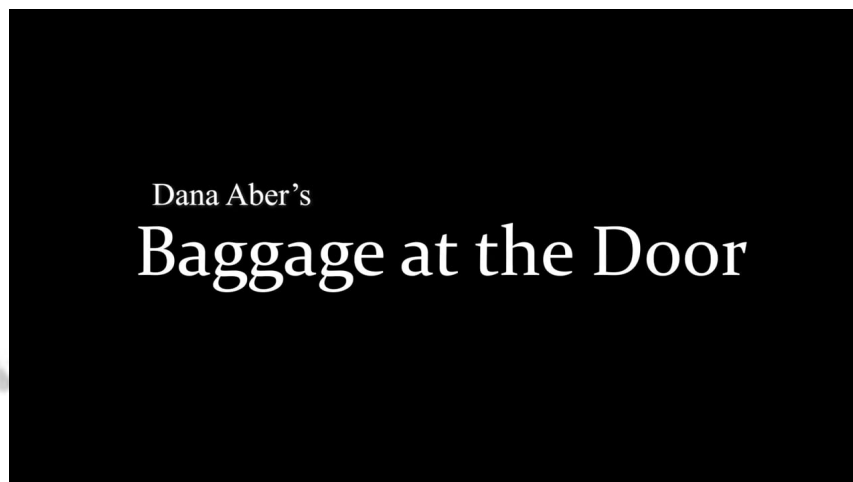
August 2019

Awarded Artist Residency at [Elsewhere Studios](#), Colorado
Workshop performance at [Blue Sage Center for the Arts](#), Paonia, CO, oversold by 40%

Upcoming 2022 *tbd*

Regional Premiere, Zeiders American Dream Theatre (The Z), Virginia Beach, VA

Media & Links



Baggage at the Door Trailer

[click for Trailer video on YouTube](#)

[click for High-Res photo gallery](#)

[click for Song Demos on Sound Cloud](#)

[click for Promo Interview](#)

Tech Details for Dana Aber's ***Baggage at the Door***

Set

- An open stage, spare scaffolding with low platforms on either side of a projector screen or cyc. This production utilizes screen projections to portray characters and set backdrop. Projections include videos of the Therapist, projections of the Trauma Monster, and different representations of the Bad Piggies.
- A key to these projections is available as a PDF guide.
- The Girl transports The Audience to different locations and circumstances through her story-telling. Lights and projections guide us from place to place and help to distinguish space and time. Specifically, lights are integral in creating two juxtaposed realities: the reality of The Girl talking to The Guy and the reality of The Girl talking to The Audience. These two realities should be noticeably different in tone and color in order to help the audience distinguish between them.

Props

- A variety of suitcases and bags, which contain various props, and also become arranged into different set pieces.
- Multiple pieces of rhinestone jewelry & bijoux.
- Multiple **Angry Birds** stuffed animals, both birdies and piggies.
- Cellphone
- Parcel of thinly sliced white American cheese.

Tech requirements

- Projector and screen
- Tech board with Q-Lab possibilities, version 3 or higher, video + sound
- Piano, with music light for accompanist*
 - *option for tracked music, requires advance tech rehearsal & SM
- Wireless mic if house is larger than 100 seats

Preferred

- videographer to capture archival footage
- photographer to capture archival photos

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