



A daughter remembers
her charismatic, troubled Irish
mother and the real and vivid life
she led. A hilarious and powerful
performance by OBIE AWARD
winning actress Winsome Brown.

written and performed by **WINSOME BROWN** directed by **BRAD ROUSE**

THIS IS

Mary

Brown



"Lovely, Genuine, Touching
and quietly affecting"
THE NEW YORK TIMES

★★★★

"A very special piece of writing
and a virtuosic piece of acting."
BROADWAY BABY, SCOTLAND

"A tender portrayal of family
love and strife. Brings the
audiences to tears. MAGIC."
TRIBECA TRIBUNE

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WINSOME BROWN in

THIS IS
Mary
Brown

directed by
Brad Rouse

This is Mary Brown is the moving and funny personal story of Winsome's charismatic Irish mother, Mary. The play captures Mary's humor, hurt, and courage from her hilarious and eccentric Irish childhood through motherhood, her struggles with alcoholism, and finally, the sad grace of her death.

trailer

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aO_Qlv559dc

Brown is chameleonic, and she shines. She plays fifteen characters — herself, her mother, her father, siblings and various figures from their family life. With little more than a shift in tone, a gesture, an expression she conveys a range of characters with a seeming artless simplicity that is at the same time a virtuoso performance.

The dramatic power of *This is Mary Brown* comes from the complications of family life, the touches of comedy from its bizarre little moments: the surprising perceptiveness of children, an eccentric priest, a death bed ritual gone a tad off the rails. Joys and sorrows are presented honestly. And while *Long Day's Journey Into Night* might be giving a nod from the wings, *This is Mary Brown* is full of life and laughter and radiates with love.

This is Mary Brown debuted at New York's La MaMa Theatre in 2015, then toured to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Critics in both countries raved about the play and its writer/performer.

THIS IS MARY BROWN

trailer

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=aO_Qlv559dc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aO_Qlv559dc)



Biography

WINSOME BROWN is a writer, director, and Obie-award winning actor whose work has received critical acclaim from *The New York Times*, *The Scotsman*, *Variety*, *LA Weekly*, and others. She is known for her ability to portray strong and charismatic women (Hillary Clinton, Gertrude Stein, Virginia Woolf, Lysistrata, Herodias among others) and be both funny and heartbreaking. Her solo play *Hit the Body Alarm* debuted at the Performing Garage in 2017. *This is Mary Brown* debuted at La MaMa and the Edinburgh Fringe in 2015. Winsome plays a Kryptonian Witch in Season 3 of *Supergirl*.

Film/TV: *Supergirl*, *Elementary*, *A Master Builder* (dir. Jonathan Demme); *Wetlands* (dir. Emmanuele Della Valle); *Holy New York* (dir. Sonya Goddy) *Heights* (Merchant/Ivory dir. Chris Terrio); *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Nightfall* with David Carradine, *For Your Love*, *Shadows Choose Their Horrors* (NY FilmFest, dir. Jenn Reeves). Iam.com, improv spot with Spike Lee.

Theater: *The Burial at Thebes* (Irish Rep); *Gertrude Stein* (Target Margin's Stein Lab); Irina Brook's *Shakespeare's Sister*; Hillary Clinton in the opera *Women: The War Within* (Baryshnikov Arts Centre). André Gregory and Wallace Shawn's *The Master Builder*. Heather Woodbury's Obie award-winning *Tale of 2 Cities: An American Joyride on Multiple Tracks*, (UCLA Live/PS 122). Jay Scheib's "World of Wires" (Festival d'Automne in Paris, the ICA in Boston; Nantes, Krakow, and Maubeuge).

Winsome's essays and features have appeared in *Salon*, *Elle India*, *The Outrider* (Toronto), Gothtober.com, *Boiler Magazine*, *City Magazine*, *Fondation Pierre Arnaud*. She was commissioned by Steve Hendel, the backer of Fela, to write a screenplay about the Irish music band Dervish. Her plays have appeared at The Performing Garage, La MaMa, The Edinburgh Festival Fringe, The Cornelia Street Cafe, LA's Tamarind Theatre and Luna Park, LA's The 24 Hour Plays; The 24 Hour Circus at La MaMa, The Signet Society (Cambridge, MA), the summer festival at BARD College, and Issue Project Room.

Winsome is the writer/director of "The Violinist" (2012, 44 min), a 16 mm experimental narrative film. The live concert/ film experience of "The Violinist" debuted at the Hudson Opera House, and is also repped by Poetry in Motion. Winsome has frequently collaborated with composers and musicians, both as performer and director. Composers and musicians she has worked with include Dave Soldier; the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), Nathan Davis, Yuval Ron, Rebecca Cherry, Jami Tyzick, and Du Yun. Winsome was born and raised in Toronto and lives in New York.

DIRECTOR BRAD ROUSE

Brad Rouse has directed plays and musicals at the Public Theater in New York City, City Center Encores, the Ahmanson Theater (CTG), Hartford Stage, the Juilliard School, City Theater in Pittsburgh, The Directors Company, New Dramatists, Contemporary American Theater Festival, Cape Cod Theatre Project, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, HB Playwrights, and NYU. He received an award from the Connecticut Critics Circle for his production of *HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH* (starring Anthony Rapp) and was nominated as Best Director in Los Angeles and Philadelphia for *THE MICE* by Julia Jordan, Nell Benjamin and Larry O'Keefe, and choreographed by Rob Ashford. Other credits include world premieres by Billy Porter, and Cusi Cram, plus workshop presentations of plays by Adam Rapp and Daniel Goldfarb. His work has been featured on CBS's *60 Minutes II* and NPR's *Fresh Air*. He assisted Harold Prince on new work by Andrew Lloyd Webber, Carol Burnett, Stephen Sondheim, John Weidman, Jason Robert Brown, and Jim Steinman. Most recently, he directed *POP!* by Maggie-Kate Coleman and Anna K. Jacobs starring Anthony Rapp and choreographed by Billy Porter. At the American Academy of Dramatic Arts he directed plays by Douglas Carter Beane, Tom Stoppard, Shelagh Stephenson, Theresa Rebeck, George Abbott, Federico Garcia Lorca, Jean Anouilh, J.M. Barrie, Tina Howe, and John Ciarani. As a writer, his work has been seen at the York Theatre Company, Issues Project Room, John Jay College, and the Cornelia Street Café.

New York Times

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/15/theater/review-in-this-is-mary-brown-mom-has-tribes-but-is-quite-a-character.html?_r=0

The Scotsman

<http://www.wow247.co.uk/2015/08/31/theatre-review-this-is-mary-brown/>

Tribeca Trib

<http://tribecatrib.com/content/performance-winsome-brown-brings-audience-tears>

Theater Scene

<http://www.theaterscene.net/plays/this-is-mary-brown/courtney-marie/>

Broadway Baby (Scotland)

<http://www.broadwaybaby.com/shows/this-is-mary-brown/707005>

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