

Note from Director

My mother marched in the 1970's for the right to have body autonomy. I marched in the late 1990's to keep those rights. My husband marched with me in 2017 because after the Presidential election, there was a new threat to those rights looming on the horizon. Our mothers warned us to protect them; that *'they'* would try to take them away. It seemed impossible. An empty threat. And then in 2022, instead of marching, I wept and wailed when I read that what felt like a given, was taken. Immediately I wanted to find a way to help women gain access to medical care that they needed, but of course felt thwarted. What could I possibly do? So, I sat, and complained, and read articles, and complained. And then this play appeared in my life. And while it isn't operating an underground pipeline for women who need safe health care, it is a small form of protest and response to adversity.

While working with the incredible and brilliant Ally Ibach on *Midnight Cowboy Radio*, we knew it was immediately important to us that all of these characters in Peg's world were treated with a sense of care and respect. That they were true, and complicated. It's too easy for all of us while we exist in our echo chambers of beliefs and values, to paint the people on *'the other side'* as wrong or even evil in some cases. But we know that it's more complicated than that. Many of us have found that the people on *'the other side'* are our friends, co-workers, loved ones, parents...they're all of us. And we're all just trying to get through life, using our beliefs and values to guide our way. But what happens when something in our lives challenges that steadfast belief that we hold dear? Are we merely a product of our side of the aisle, or can we find a common ground in what makes us all connected? When our beliefs are challenged, and the signs around us are confusing, how do we know when we are doing *'the right thing'*?

We hope that you enjoy the radio show tonight as you ride along with Peg on this *'car trip home'*...yee haw!!!

- Patricia Runcie-Rice



**Midnight Cowboy
Radio**

A New Play

THEATRE ROW

By Ally Ibach

November 9th, 2023 at 8:30 PM

The Studio Theatre at Theatre Row

About the Play

Summary: It's Labor Day, 2022. "*Entertaining y'all for those long drives home.*" Midnight Cowboy Radio follows a charming, girl-next-door, conservative late-night- radio talk show host in Kentucky who runs her usual program for local listeners, all while arranging a (now) illegal off-air abortion.

Playwright's Note

When the Supreme Court Opinion was leaked in the Spring 2022 to overturn *Roe v. Wade*- I was in a Sainsbury's in London. I became fixated with American news, horrified at what was happening back home. During that time, I had an assignment in drama school to write an original monologue for our final showcase performance. I had a loose idea of basing a performance on Jack Kerouac's *On The Road* (maybe because I have a strange, deep affection for beatniks and cowboys?).

Yet, with everything going on in the world, I was too overloaded with articles to even start to think about what I would do for this project. I partook in an unhealthy amount of doom-scrolling the latest conservative state legislation- until one day, ideas finally hit me. What if I could talk about reproductive rights, while making people laugh about the state of the country? What if we could all look at this issue together- how we got here, and see the humanity beyond religious dogma and party affiliation? What if a fiercely conservative woman needed to arrange an illegal abortion? Could she still be America's sweetheart? And ... Could she still wear a cowboy hat? Finally, I felt I could work through my thoughts on Americana, the entanglement of church and state, the "ideal woman," and how it feels to perpetuate a broken system. A year, a few countries, brilliant collaborators, and some change later- we have a radio show for your entertainment this **evening**

This show is about a woman who is not free but loves to pretend to be.

Maybe she'll figure it out tonight **leans into the mic** on Midnight Cowboy Radio.

- Ally Ibach



15th Annual United Solo Theatre Festival – Fall 2023

MIDNIGHT COWBOY RADIO

By and Starring

Ally Ibach*

Director

Patricia Runcie-
Rice

**Light/Sound
Operator**

Kris Carpenter

Associate Director

Brian McManimon

Dramaturg
Eulàlia Comas

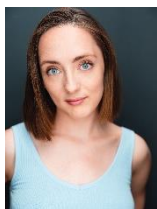
**Production
Assistant**

Gabrielle
Rodríguez

Composer
C.M. Jenkins

Cast and Crew

*These Actors are appearing courtesy of *Actors' Equity Association*



Ally Ibach* as
The Radio Cowgirl



Director
Patricia Runcie-Rice



Associate Director
Brian McManimon



Production Assistant
Gabrielle Rodríguez



Light/Sound
Operator
Kris Carpenter



Dramaturg
Eulàlia Comas



Composer
C.M. Jenkins

Voice Artists:

Steven Satta (Political Caller) Peter Wray (Jeremiah), Tyrel Brown (Joe), Jeffrey and Liam Runcie (Diner Dan and Sarah), Laia Comas (Shelia)

Who's Who

Ally Ibach (Playwright/ Radio Cowgirl) is an actor and multi-disciplinary creator with a background in solo performance, devised work, and theatre / film production. They hold an MA in Acting from East 15 Drama School in the United Kingdom. *Midnight Cowboy Radio* was awarded as a semi-finalist at the Secret Theatre (NY), and had previous runs at Edinburgh Fringe and Bread & Roses (Off West End). Recent Credits include *Comedy of Errors* (Ravenscourt Arts), *The Pudding Club* (London Vaults), and *Songs for Scattered Times* (Omnibus Theatre) allyibach.com | @allyibach

Patricia Runcie-Rice (Director) is a cum laude graduate of Boston College's theatre program & has been a New York based director, producer, actor, playwright, and theatre educator for over 20 years. After Boston College, she completed a 2-year actor training program focusing on the Meisner technique with an esteemed teacher of The Neighborhood Playhouse, as well as 3 years of private study with a disciple of Uta Hagen. Patricia is an associate member of SDC, and proudly teaches theatre at the Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn. She would like to express her extreme gratitude to everyone involved with MCR, especially the incredible Ally; and to her wonderful husband and 3 brilliant children.

Gabrielle Rodríguez (Production Assistant) is a multidisciplinary artist and Stage Manager from Yonkers, NY. She is grateful to work on MCR! She recently graduated from Iona University with a BA in Arts Leadership (Concentration in Theater). Notable experiences at Iona include stage managing: "*Master Harold*" ... *and the boys*, *Veronica's Room*. (Iona University Theatre Ensemble) and many late nights painting sets. This summer, she was an intern at Iati Theater for their *Cimientos Play Development Series* and an Assistant Stage Manager for *Nyad's Dream* at The Tank. Past New York Crew Credits: Production Assistant for *Richard II* and Jane Austen's *Emma* (Hudson Classical Theater Company). She is also a Stage Management Association member. She would like to thank everyone on the team for being amazing. Enjoy the show :)!

@serimaluna on IG | <https://gabyrodriguezrivera.wixsite.com/gabriellerodriguez>

Eulàlia Comas (Dramaturg) is a Brooklyn-based writer, director, and steward of storytelling processes with roots in central PA and Barcelona. Her work has appeared at The Brick, The Tank, Pear Tree Alley Theater, Wesleyan Center for the Arts, La Mama Galleria, among others. She tells stories about people who build worlds and words for survival. ig: @laiaxcomas

C.M. Jenkins (Composer) is a pianist and music composer living in New York City. Christopher's debut album "*First Movements Along A Curve*" was released earlier this year in 2023, was recorded by Jeff Gruber at Blue House Productions in Silver Spring, Maryland, mixed by the legendary Don Zientara in Arlington, VA, and mastered by Jackson Wargo in Los Angeles, CA. Growing up outside of Annapolis, Maryland, Jenkins began music lessons at a very young age, and fell in love with composing during high school. Jenkins writes contemporary classical music, composes music for film and visual arts, and is influenced by the works of Philip Glass, Steve Reich, and Suzanne Ciani. Instagram: @cmjenkinsmusic Website: www.cmjenkinsmusic.com

Kris Carpenter (Light/Sound Operator & she/they) is a Brooklyn based stage manager, event technician, and axe throwing instructor. They are also a part of the props team with Little Shop of Horrors at the Westside Theatre. Catawba College (BA) and Stage Management Association member.

Dramaturgical Note

In reflecting on *Midnight Cowboy Radio*, I have been unable to remove myself from my frame of view. This is, of course, the same predicament that Peg finds herself in while she is on the air. As her community members call in, all she can hear is what they say to her situation, not to her. As she asks to hear how people spend their Labor Day, what their dreams are (american or otherwise), she is also being made to perform a particular emotional labor: that of advocating for her own body and her own autonomy.

The perky cowgirl persona is dropped as soon as the mic goes cold, but Peg is not switching into a truer or more genuine version of herself in her solitary moments of pondering, nor is she stepping into a more assertive role of self-advocacy when she calls the number on her resource pamphlet. This self-advocacy, the labor of advocating for her own body, undergirds everything Peg does and says—both on air and off—because it is Peg’s true self. What strikes me as so powerful about Ally’s play is, despite our cowgirl’s circumstances, her radio voice serves as an extension of her assertive self and draws attention to the fact that women are constantly and tiringly performing the labor of self-advocacy in everything we do. For those of us with bodies that others see fit to legislate, we are no stranger to the double labor that our position necessitates. I hope you will join the team of *Midnight Cowboy Radio* in celebrating the strength it takes to perform this feat, and lament with us the fact that we must do it.

- Eulàlia Comas

Resources

Kentucky Health Justice Network (KHJN):

<https://abortionfunds.org/fund/kentucky-health-justice-network/>

EMW Women’s Surgical Center: <https://emwwomens.com/>

ACLU of Kentucky: <https://www.aclu-ky.org/en/node/4>

Kentucky A Fund: <https://www.kyafund.org/>

Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Justice:

<https://krerc.weebly.com/abortion-help.html>

Abortion Fund of Ohio:

<https://www.abortionfundofohio.org/kentuckyaccess>

National Abortion Federation: <https://prochoice.org/>

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Theatre Row Program Staff

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General Management Associate (Contracts) – Rubina Vidal

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