

# Bat Scat Fever

(A full length one act play in 90 minutes)

## **TIME:**

In the summer months of the worst phase of the coronavirus pandemic.

## **PLACE:**

New York City: a sparse stylized set represents a careworn tenement with a tea room on the bottom floor and apartments overhead.

## **CHARACTERS:**

MIRIAM AUSLANDER, the owner of The Auslander tenement, age 50s

THEODORA AUSLANDER, her niece and the manager of The Tea Room, age late 20s

LUCIAN MOORE, a security guard and former actor, age late 20s

## **PLOT SYNOPSIS:**

Miriam Auslander and her niece, Theodora, have hired a night shift security guard named Lucian to protect their Lower East Side tenement. After several tenants perished of the corona virus, the rest fled, leaving only Theodora who remains in her apartment and is in charge of maintaining the building. Before the pandemic forced the closure of theaters and restaurants, Lucian was a struggling actor and Theodora an aspiring dancer who managed The Tea Room on the first floor of the tenement. Since Theodora is a chronic insomniac, she often seeks the company of Lucian, and as their friendship blossoms, Theodora confesses that despite her vigilant fear of the virus, she keeps a pet bat named Cora that she feeds daily rations of her own blood. Having been bitten, Theodora feels nocturnal yearnings that allow her soul to flee her body and fly with Cora to various destinations in the City. Miriam's curiosity and grudging concern for Theodora's welfare have led her to install hidden surveillance cameras to observe Theodora's attachment to Cora and growing infatuation with Lucian. When he becomes infected with the virus, Theodora nurses him, risking her own fragile health. After he recovers, Lucian dreams of escaping to Los Angeles, but is thwarted by a bout of rabies that proves fatal, leaving his spirit to haunt The Auslander. After witnessing Lucian's spectral presence, Miriam posts notices seeking exorcists so that Theodora will be free to pursue her destiny among the living.

