

Bess Welden's (www.besswelden.com) newest play with songs, *Death Wings*, recently won the 2020 Maine State prize of the Clauder Competition for New England Playwrights. The script was also a semi-finalist for the 2020 O'Neill New Play Conference and workshopped with Fresh Ink Theatre at Boston Center for the Arts. The new full-length version of *Madeleines* was named a finalist for the 2021 Bay Area Playwrights Festival, a top 20 semi-finalist in the 2021 National Jewish Plays Contest and received workshop readings with Maine Playwrights Festival and North Shore Readers Theater. Her play *Refuge Malja*, winner of the Tel Aviv Jewish Plays Contest and a finalist in the 2020 National Jewish Playwriting Contest, was recently published by Smith Scripts, UK. *Refuge Malja* premiered on Portland Stage's mainstage and was nominated for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize in 2018. In fall 2020 she co-produced and performed *Hausfrau: The Webseries* on YouTube. *Mergirl Saves the Waves*, Bess' feminist, environmentalist adaptation of *The Little Mermaid*, is in development supported by a grant from the Maine Arts Commission. Her solo comedies *The Passion of the Hausfrau* (2009) and *Big Mouth Thunder Thighs* (2013) premiered in Portland Stage's Studio Theater, and her collaborative play-project with live music and illustration, *Legbala is a River*, premiered at Mayo Street Arts (2017). Last spring she participated as an invited writer at the National Winter Playwrights Retreat (HBMG Foundation) in Grand Lake, CO and was a member of Company One Theatre (Boston) PlayLab Unit 2020 cohort. You can hear her 15-minute audio rom-coms "What I Miss Most" and "Under My Skin" on the Meet Cute Podcast (www.meetcute.com).