

# PLAYBILL®

## FREEDOM OF SPEECH

*A one-person play*

Written and Performed By  
**Eliza Jane Schneider**

Presented by  
Alberta Abbey [albertaabbey.org](http://albertaabbey.org)

Directed by  
Bruce Akpan Hostetler

With Technical Assistance by  
Lighting Board Operator - Sean Flora  
Projection Board Operator - Stephen Fisk  
Sound Board Operator - Nicholas Emerson  
Stage Manager - Eve Rose

Support Eliza Jane on Patreon!  
[www.patreon.com/elizajaneschneider](http://www.patreon.com/elizajaneschneider)





**Eliza Jane Schneider** is an acclaimed voice artist, actor, musician, playwright, entrepreneur, writer, producer, dialectologist, and celebrity coach. She brings over a decade of experience in the entertainment industry to her multifaceted career.

No doubt, you've heard her voice before. Eliza is renowned for voicing characters in animation and gaming, from the female population of Comedy Central's South Park, to roles in popular video games like Assassin's Creed, World of WarCraft, and Diablo IV.

As the CEO of Vox Pop Entertainment and Competitive Edge Voice Training, she has been instrumental in helping actors find their unique character voices and break into the world of animation and video games.

She built that school on some really unique research. Many years ago, Eliza Jane converted an old ambulance into a mobile recording studio, and set out to record as many dialects in America as she could find. That journey took on a life of its own, and took Eliza across six continents to record thousands of people speaking English in their native dialects.

That's where **Freedom of Speech** comes in. It was the people and their deeply interesting history and stories that represented the real value of Eliza's globetrotting. Eliza brings a handful of those people to life on stage in this production. This play has been performed for audiences for more than a dozen years, and Eliza is pleased to present it to you here tonight in celebration of her new podcast, of the same name.

The **Freedom of Speech** podcast, which debuts on the same day as this production - January 6th 2024, Eliza Jane and her guests take audiences on a global voyage to give voice to people from diverse backgrounds, bridging cultures, and sharing the stories of those who've been unheard.

**For information about the Freedom of Speech podcast, go to [www.fosplay.com](http://www.fosplay.com)  
- available from January 6th 2024, on all major podcast platforms**

## Characters in this production

Of the thousands of real people Eliza Jane interviewed from her converted ambulance, Freedom of Speech includes only a fraction. Through Eliza's performance, you'll get to meet the following characters:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Locale</b>
ELIZA JANE SCHNEIDER	TRAVELLER	EVERYWHERE, USA
JACK HEART	CHIPPEWA ARTIST	CASS LAKE, MN
ANNE IPEETS	PLANTATION OWNER	MISSISSIPPI DELTA
IDA	DINER WAITRESS	LOWER EAST SIDE, NY
VANESSA	PROSTITUTE	MUSTANG RANCH, NV
CELINA	"LITTLE MISS" PAGEANT RUNNER-UP	WARWICK, GA
PAULA	MARIAN HELPER	ENFIELD, CT
RONNY	MED STUDENT, CHRISTIAN	OXFORD, MS
HEIDI	MED STUDENT, DOMINATRIX	SILVERLAKE, CA
EDUARDO SALAZAR	MARINE	SAN ANGELO, TX
TRACY MURPHY	HAIR STYLIST	WACO, TX
DORCAS MURPHY	MOTHER, NIGHT NURSE	WACO, TX
BILLY BUSH	RADIO DJ	LACONIA, NH
GINGER	FIDDLER, TURKEY HUNTER	MOUNTAIN VIEW, AK
AARON	BON VIVANT, GUITARIST	SEATTLE, WA
ELIZABETH	BASSIST, MECHANIC	SEATTLE, WA
JANET GARDNER	REVOLUTIONARY, NURSING MOTHER	SAN FRANCISCO, CA
BRYCE	GANG MEMBER	PITTSBURGH, PA
ERIC	OPPOSING GANG MEMBER	PITTSBURGH, PA
JENNIFER	HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT	BROOKLYN, NY
DOTSY	HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT	SPANISH HARLEM, NY
DAN BARLOW	MAYOR, POLYGAMIST	COLORADO CITY, AZ

<b>Name</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Locale</b>
LIZ HARDAGE	NURSE	WARWICK, GA
SHAMEEKA	STUDENT	WARWICK, GA
NATHANIEL "MAN" HARDAGE JR.	STUDENT	WARWICK, GA
ANNIE HARDAGE	STUDENT	WARWICK, GA
NATHANIEL HARDAGE, SR	FARMER	WARWICK, GA
ANONYMOUS	VIETNAM VET	NEW ORLEANS, LA
GEORGE YELLOW	NAVAJO ELDER	GRAND CANYON, AZ
VALERIE HEIDER	ENTREPRENEUR	JANESVILLE, WI
MIRACLE	THE WHITE BUFFALO	JANESVILLE, WI

# Inspiration

## Excerpted from "On Listening": by Dr. Carl Faber

*"Most people have never really been listened to. They live in a lonely silence-no one knowing what they feel, how they live, or what they have done. They are prisoners of the eyes of others, of the stereotyped, limited, superficial and often distorted ways that others see them.*

*There are no words to adequately describe what it is to be free with another person. It is most often a sensing that someone will let us be all of what we are at that moment. We can talk about whatever we wish, express in any way whatever feelings are in our hearts. We can take as much time as we need. We can sit, stand, pace, yell, cry, pound the floor, dance or weep for joy. Whatever and however we are at the moment is accepted and respected...*

*This experience of freedom and communion helps us to feel that someone is for us. And it is this deep sensing of someone, somewhere, being for us that breaks into the silent loneliness of our lives and encourages us in the struggle to be human. It helps us to break the tyranny of the strangers' eyes and to give to our lives all that we are capable of giving. Because listening can bring about such powerful healing, it is one of the most beautiful gifts that people can give and receive."*