

JESUIT DRAMA

48th Anniversary Season

proudly presents
the premiere production of

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF EARLY EARTH



A play based on the graphic novel by **Isabel Greenberg**
Adapted for the stage by **Rachel Malin & Ed Trafton**

November 6—16

Black Box Theater

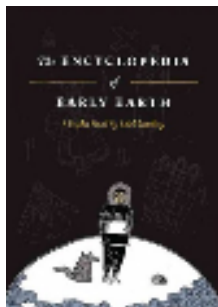
Jesuit High School Student Life Center
(Gordon Lane off Fair Oaks Blvd.)

\$10 Students | \$15 General

For tickets, please go to jesuithighschool.org/drama

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF EARLY EARTH

(2013) by Isabel Greenberg



"If The Encyclopedia of Early Earth is to be believed, the primitive days of our planet were icy landscapes drawn with thick, stark lines and highlighted with the careful use of bold colors. This beautiful comic, Isabel Greenberg's first, pulls on stories from cultural and religious traditions--Genesis, Nordic legends, Greek myths--as well as the work of other influential cartoonists--Kate Beaton, Seth, Jason--to create something unique and timeless. The stories here are imbued with such wit and heart: Two lovers--one from the North Pole, the other from the South--cannot come within two feet of each other because of their polar magnetization; an old woman defeats a giant with her storytelling; a cartographer is aided by three "genius monkeys from the Island of What." Greenberg uses our familiarity with archetypes to play with our expectations, bending these layered stories into something strange and delightful. The Encyclopedia of Early Earth is a journey that takes us from one end of the Earth to the other--just perhaps in the direction you'd least expect."

(Kevin Nguyen)

"A loving homage to storytelling itself, Greenberg's first graphic novel isn't an encyclopedia at all but an intricately crafted mythology told from within a young man's grand adventure. Split into three beings as a baby, the boy(s) find his (their) way back into one, though he is missing a tiny but crucial piece of his soul. In search of that tiny piece, he journeys farther from the snowy northern lands of his home than anyone before and encounters Greenberg's powerfully realized imaginary cultures. Along the way, he shares and accumulates tales that encompass creation, cataclysm, war, jealousy, and compassion, even as the overarching story follows him and his great love to their own poignant end. Sewing in her own sly humor, Greenberg deeply immerses readers in the themes and lessons of world mythology, but she remarkably never merely apes classic myths--the way each of Early Earth's cultures tweaks the same ideas and characters for their own myths is a veritable lesson in comparative theology. Just as essentially evocative is her art, which uses simple, childlike illustrations to channel the power of ancient cave paintings and archetypal images from our own imaginations. A unique, compelling stunner from one to watch."

(Jesse Karp)

The hero in *The Encyclopedia of Early Earth* is a Nord storyteller from the North Pole who was once divided into three bodies by his adoptive (and fractious) mothers. Having been reunited by the shaman his mothers retained to perform his initial division, he discovers that a tiny piece of his soul has escaped and flown elsewhere in Early Earth. All agree that the soul-fragment--without which he cannot feel whole and at peace--is somewhere in the southern half of Early Earth, which is a mirror image of the north. So he sets off in his boat for a series of adventures that take him to the South Pole and his true love, where his romance is both cursed and blessed by the gods, who have a complicated relationship with him.

Throughout, the storyteller tells his stories, meets other storytellers, and has his story told, and the themes from these stories wrap around each other as a series of simple variations that build to a crescendo of marvelous richness.

Check out Isabel's work at isabelnecessary.com.