

# Celebrate Bethlehem's great native artist Hilda Doolittle in this new play, part of Touchstone Theatre's "Festival UnBound"

The Bethlehem Gadfly Arts, the, H.D. (Hilda Doolittle), Serious Issues September 18, 2019

*(27th in a series of posts on H.D.)*

## Finding H.D.:

### A Community Exploration of the Life and Work of Hilda Doolittle

*Bethlehem-born writer Hilda Doolittle — H. D. — (1886-1961) is*

*the "Lehigh Valley's most important literary figure."*



Contributions to fund the museum-quality portrait of H. D. **by local artist Angela Fraleigh** that will hang prominently in the library are REALLY lagging. Can you please help? Visit <http://www.bapl.org/hd/>

*Doug Roysdon's marionettes are fabulous — don't miss!*



*World Premiere!*

*“The Secret”*

*A New Mixed-Media Play about H.D.*

*by Mock Turtle Marionette Theater*

**Sat Oct 5, 5 pm with talkback at 6:30 pm**

**Sun Oct 6, 1 pm with panel discussion at 2:30 pm**

**Mon Oct 7 @ 7:30 pm**

**Tues Oct 8 @ 7:30 pm**

**Touchstone Theatre — *Festival UnBound***

321 East 4th Street, Bethlehem

*From artistic director of Mock Turtle Marionette Theater and chief writer Doug Roysdon, featuring narrative, song, and puppetry. Directed by*

Jennie Gilrain.

<http://www.touchstone.org/>

<https://festivalunbound.com/>

**The Play:** *The Secret* begins one day, in late nineteenth century Bethlehem, when sixteen year-old, Helen Wolle, mother of H.D., entered a Moravian Seminary classroom to rehearse a song she looked forward to performing. Much to her shock and, in fact, trauma, she was roughly told to be quiet, to end “this dreadful noise.” by her pastor grandfather, Papalie. And Helen, who loved to sing so much and so well, would never sing again in public.

So begins *The Secret*, our community-inspired and community-produced celebration of Bethlehem’s great native artist, Hilda Doolittle. It is a play that follows H.D.’s poetic adventure to London, Greece and Vienna. Yet, the lessons and events of her Moravian childhood, memories that dramatically shaped her life and writings, fill the play as they did H.D.’s life and work. And so, as *The Secret* moves from myth and ritual to the devastating realities of the London air raids . . . it never entirely leaves Church Street.

**The Project:** Over the past year, a partnership including The Bethlehem Area Public Library, the Lehigh University English Department, Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center, and Mock Turtle Marionette Theater has fostered a wide-ranging community initiative with a single unified goal. That is to assert poet and feminist visionary, Hilda Doolittle’s place as the most important and accomplished artist to hail from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. In this, we strive to join other American communities who understand the importance of celebrating their gifted daughters just as they have always recognized their native sons. *The Secret* represents the culmination of the *Finding H.D. Project*, a year of programs featuring the many facets of H.D.’s artistic work.

**Finding H.D.:**

**A Community Exploration of the Life and Work of Hilda  
Doolittle**

**Festival UnBound**

**Ten days of original theatre, dance, music, art and  
conversation designed to celebrate and imagine our future  
together!**

**October 4-13**