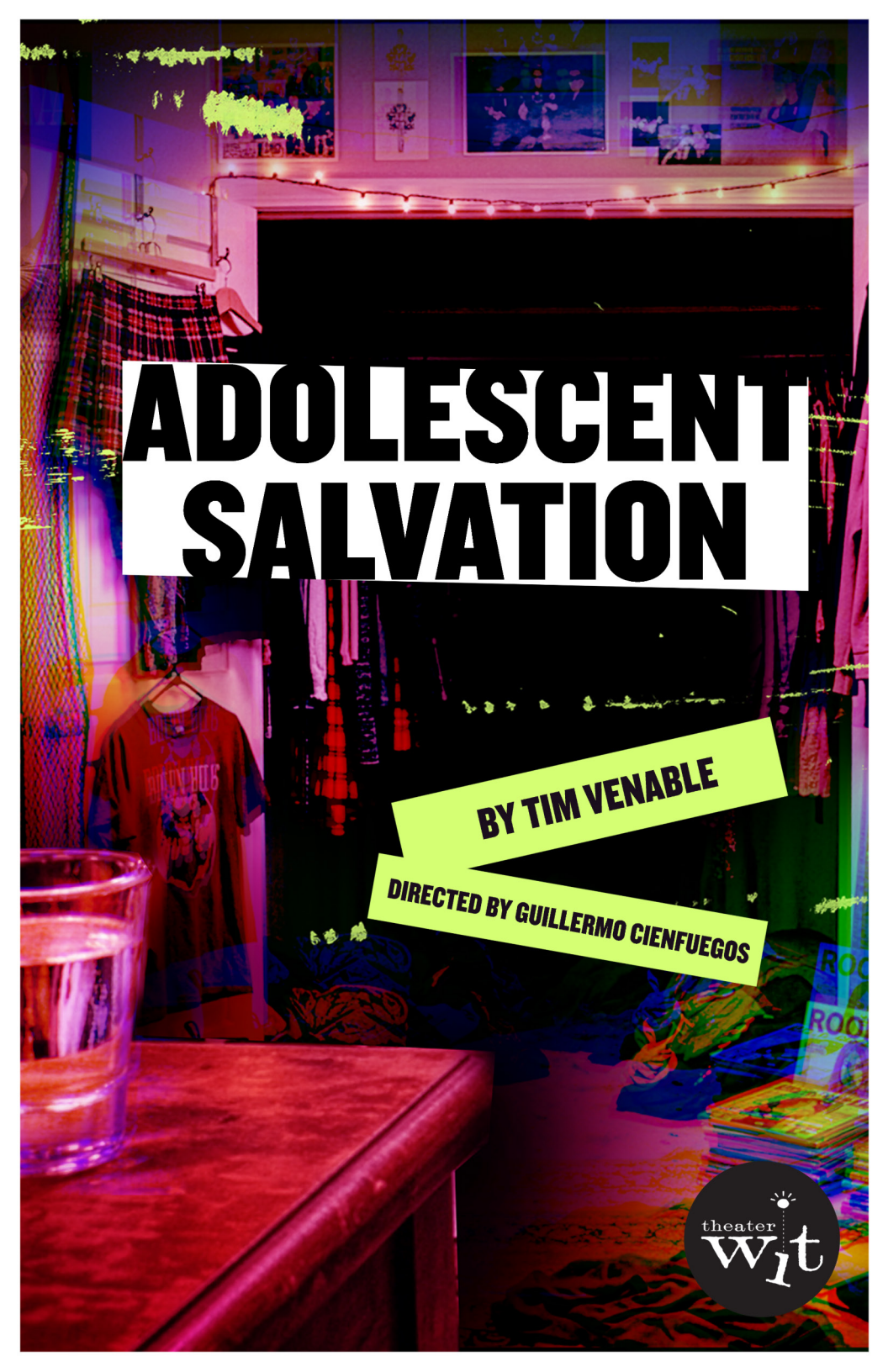




ADOLESCENT SALVATION

BY TIM VENABLE

DIRECTED BY GUILLERMO CIENFUEGOS



Theater Wit Presents

Adolescent Salvation

By Tim Venable

Cast

Piper Jean Bailey..... Natasha
Jordan Levene..... Taylor
Brandon Acosta Taylor
Maura Kidwell..... Victoria

Understudies

Nora McKirdie, John McBeth III

Production Team

Guillermo Cienfuegos.....Director
Grace Kelly..... Assistant Director
Jonathan Berg-Einhorn Scenic Designer
Josephine EverettCostume Designer
Hannah Andruss.....Hair and Makeup Designer
Ellie Fey..... Lighting Designer
AnnaMae Durham.....Properties Designer
Daniella Brown.....Sound Designer
Sarah Scanlon..... Intimacy Director
Kate Booth Fight Director
Noelle HarrisonAudience Designer/Marketing
Matthew R. Chase.....Production Manager
Drew Donnelly* Production Stage Manager
Ave Fitzgerald Assistant Stage Manager
Nicholas Zabel Technical Director
Nicholas Chamernik..... Lighting Supervisor
Arthur Karson Scenic Charge

* Denotes member of Actors Equity Union

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PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

When I was a teenager I did a lot of stupid shit. I was a bit of a criminal. I started drinking and doing drugs. I hated high school, and barely graduated. I was lost and made a lot of mistakes, and got into serious trouble. But I was also sensitive and intelligent and felt and thought deeply about things. I wasn't just a dumb kid. I can see now that I was in a lot of pain and acting out. My parents had divorced a few years earlier, and I had moved to a small town in Iowa. I didn't have any friends, and the adults were failing and flailing around me. I was lonely and angry and in despair. One night, I remember watching the Smells Like Teen Spirit video on 120 Minutes on MTV for the first time, and something shifted within me. It felt like Nirvana and Kurt Cobain understood how I was feeling. I abandoned myself to music and movies and books and had dreams of being an artist, and somehow that sad, lost kid found hope. I can say now that it saved my life.

Tim Venable

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I have a deep connection to the writing of Tim Venable - his voice rings a bell in my heart.

I've directed two of his plays and produced a third. And between you and me? This one is my favorite. A dark comic thriller populated with the same kind of characters Tim always writes about: Funny, messy, wounded people doing their best (whatever that means for them) and coming to grips with the effects and consequences of bad decisions.

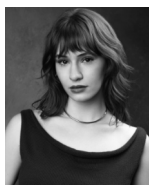
Sometimes unforgivable ones.

Regardless of the generation they belong to, I recognize the voices I hear in this play. They make me laugh - but they also speak to me in a subterranean whisper. There are questions they all seem to be privately asking: "Am I alone? Will anyone ever see me and understand me? Will someone accept me, and stay with me, even when they know the worst thing about me?"

I recognize that voice. It's mine, too.

Guillermo Cienfuegos

CAST BIOS



PIPER JEAN BAILEY she/her (*Natasha*) is thrilled to be returning to Theater Wit over a decade after her professional debut in *A DAY IN THE DEATH OF JOE EGG* here at twelve years old. Credits include *AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE* (Timeline Theatre), *ROMEO AND JULIET* (Milwaukee Repertory Theatre), *BONNIE AND CLYDE* (The Rev Theatre), *IT GIRL* (Goodman Theatre, Playwrights Reading Unit), and the upcoming indie feature film *BIG TIME*. She received her B.S. in Acting from Northwestern University where she performed in *THE PROM*, *BE MEAN TO ME*, *LYLE LYLE CROCODILE* (Wirtz Center) and *FEFU AND HER FRIENDS* (Wave Productions). Piper is a fiber artist and clothing designer who shares her handmade work on Instagram at @pj.crochet and @pjsorbet. Much love to her family and friends for their unwavering love and support.



JORDAN LEVENE she/her (*Taylor*) is a Chicago-based actor, singer, and dancer! Recent theater credits include *POOR QUEENIE* at Subtext Studio Theatre Co., *DOGS* at Red Theater, and *THE BEST DAMN THING* at The Understudy. She is signed with TalentXAlexander and would like to thank her theatre agent, Lauren, for all of her support. Check out the website she spent far too much time designing @jordanlevene.com!



BRANDON ACOSTA he/him (*Taylor*) is thrilled to be making his Theater Wit debut! He was most recently seen playing Christopher Wren in *THE MOUSETRAP* (Peninsula Players). Other select Chicago credits: *DO SOMETHING PRETTY* (Rivendell Theatre Ensemble), *PETER AND THE STARCATCHER*, *AN ACT OF GOD*, *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS* (Paramount Theatre), *GREASE* (Drury Lane Theatre), *FREDERICK* (Chicago Children's Theatre), *25TH ANNUAL...SPELLING BEE*, *GUYS AND DOLLS*, *GODSPELL* (Music Theater Works). Brandon has also composed original music for stage, screen, and podcast. He is proudly represented by Gray Talent Group. Social Media: @Pfmgum2

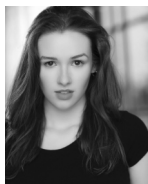


MAURA KIDWELL she/her (*Victoria*) is thrilled to be back on stage at Theater Wit, where she was last seen in the Chicago premiere of *THE NEW SINCERITY*. Other acting credits include *ROE*, *ASHLAND AVENUE* (Goodman); *BUG*, *DOWNSTATE*, *THREE SISTERS* (Steppenwolf); *WHAT THE CONSTITUTION...* (Timeline); *ALIAS: GRACE* (Rivendell). TV: *THE BEAR*, *SIRENS*, *SOUTH SIDE*, *CHICAGO FIRE*, *CHICAGO MED*, and *MIND GAMES*. Maura splits her time between acting and directing and enjoys the creative reciprocity both roles offer one another. Recent directing credits include *DIVE* (The Dark Room District), and the award-winning short films *KILLER SET* and *THE PRIZE* (writer/director). Represented by Gray Talent Group and Artists First.

CAST BIOS



JOHN MCBETH III he/him (*u/s Taylor M*) can't keep his excitement in to be working with Theatre Wit, for the first time. He's currently attending Roosevelt University. He was most recently seen in *BIG WHITE FOG* as Philip Mason. John would like to thank his beloved mother Tamekkia, as well as his family and friends for their immense love and support. John is represented by Paonessa in which he would like to say Thanks Again.



NORA MCKIRDIE she/her (*u/s Natasha/Taylor*) is thrilled to join the cast! Some past credits include, *THE SHAUGHRAUN* (Storm Theatre NYC), *MEASURE FOR MEASURE* (Illinois Shakespeare Festival), and indie short, *THE FAWN*. She is proudly represented by DDO Chicago.



MOLLY FISHER she/her (*u/s Victoria*) is thrilled to return to Theater Wit as the understudy for *ADOLESCENT SALVATION* after serving as a house manager and bartender for the company from 2012 to 2015. Her Chicago stage credits include "THE STYLE" (The Conspirators), *HELLISH HALF LIGHT* (Mary-Arrchie Theatre Co.), and *BREATHING UP* (Nothing Special Productions). Screen and commercial credits include *COLLABORATE & LISTEN*, as well as campaigns for Kohl's, Lowe's, and DSW. Molly holds an MFA in Acting from DePaul University and is represented by WSM Talent.

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

TIM VENABLE he/him (*Playwright*) is a playwright, director, actor and filmmaker, born and raised in Davenport, Iowa. His plays at Rogue Machine Theatre include *THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE* (dir Guillermo Cienfuegos), and his critically-acclaimed play *BABY FOOT*, which he also directed, that played to sold out audiences in New York and Rogue Machine Theatre in Los Angeles. Other plays include *BLUE ROSES*, *CRYSTAL GAYLE IS A BEAUTIFUL LADY*, *HANDWRITING*, *AMERICAN BRUTUS*, and *FRONT FOOT IMPOSSIBLE*. His feature-length screenplay *SINGIN' THE BLUES* was a finalist in the ScreenCraft Drama Competition, and he is currently in development on *WONDERLAND*, a Limited Series about the Wonderland murders in Los Angeles in 1981. Other screenplays include *PRETTY GOOD YEAR* (feature), *ALL APOLOGIES* (co-writer, pilot), *IOWA* (pilot) *BROOKLYN*, *MAYBE* (short film), and *FRONT FOOT IMPOSSIBLE* (short film). As director, his production of *ROMEO AND JULIET* at the Hollywood Fringe Festival was hailed as "superb...incredibly exciting...a very rare experience." Other

directing credits include staged readings of *MOUSE IN A JAR* and *PETTY HARBOUR* both by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Martyna Majok at The Road Theatre, and acting credits include *S.W.A.T* and *AMERICAN HORROR STORY: DELICATE*, and onstage at Portland Stage Company, Shakespeare & Co., The Black Dahlia, The Antaeus Company, *A Noise Within*, and *Son of Semele* Ensemble. B.A. Illinois State University.

GUILLERMO CIENFUEGOS he/him (*Director*) serves as Artistic Director at Rogue Machine Theatre in Los Angeles. He directed the RMT productions of *EVANSTON SALT COSTS CLIMBING*, *HEROES OF THE FOURTH TURNING*, *ADOLESCENT SALVATION*, *MIDDLE OF THE WORLD*, *THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE*, *DISPOSABLE NECESSITIES*, *READY STEADY YETI GO*, and *DUTCH MASTERS*. Most recently, Cienfuegos directed Shakespeare's *RICHARD III* at *A Noise Within*, where he's previously staged productions of *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING* and Shaw's *MISALLIANCE*. Last summer, Cienfuegos directed Martyna Majok's *IRONBOUND* as the inaugural production of the Ojai Theatre Festival starring Marin Ireland and Jon Bernthal. He won both the Ovation and Los Angeles Drama Desk Circle Awards for Best Director for his production of Shakespeare's *HENRY V* at Pacific Resident Theatre. He has directed numerous productions at PRT, including Ionesco's *RHINOCEROS*, Pinter's *THE HOMECOMING* and *SAFE AT HOME: AN EVENING WITH ORSON BEAN*. Other credits include the Los Angeles premiere of Stephen Andy Guirgis' Pulitzer Prize winner *BETWEEN RIVERSIDE AND CRAZY* at the Fountain Theatre, Juan Alfonso's *MIDDLE OF THE WORLD* at Boise Contemporary Theatre, Carlos Zenen-Trujillo's *CHRISTMAS CONTIGO* at Oregon Cabaret Theatre, and Vince Melocchi's *JULIA*, both at PRT and at New York's 59E59 theatre, Off-Broadway. Cienfuegos was featured in the 'People to Watch' issue of American Theatre Magazine and is a graduate of the American Conservatory Theatre.

GRACE KELLY she/her (*Assistant Director*) is a New York City-based director and Sound Designer entering her senior year at NYU Tisch School of the Arts. She is thrilled to be making her Chicago theater debut with Theater Wit. Directing credits include *TÊTE-À-TÊTE* by Jo Allen at PHTS (NYU Tisch Drama Chair's Honor of Excellence Award). Additional credits include Assistant Director for *ANNA KARENINA: A RIFF* by Gwen Kingston in collaboration with Notch Theatre Company and Associate Director for *OHIO PLAY* by Dylan Sherman (Soho Playhouse; Theatre Under the St. Marks; Soho Playhouse Lighthouse Series Finalist). Grace is a proud disabled artist who believes accessibility should be at the heart of the theatrical process, both onstage and off. She would like to thank Jeremy Wechsler and Guillermo Cienfuegos for believing in her and giving her this opportunity. She also sends endless love to her parents for always encouraging her to follow her passions, her amazing roommate Oliver, who shows her more grace than anyone else in this world, her little brother Eddie, who is always asking when Grace is coming home next, and her wonderful cat, Hank. Follow her future work or for cute Hank pics at @eandjkelly.

JONATHAN BERG-EINHORN he/him (*Scenic Designer*) is a Chicago based Scenic Designer and Prop Artisan. He has recently prop designed with Theater Wit on *THE ALLY*, *MR. BURNS*, and *TEENAGE DICK*. His prop design can also be seen at Paramount's long running show of *MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET*. He has also previously designed with Porchlight Music Theatre, Metropolis, Kokandy, American Blues, Mercury Theatre, and Red Twist to name a few. Jonathan has also had the privilege of being the resident scenic designer for Skylight Music

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

Theatre for the past three seasons. Jonathanbergeinhorn.com.

JOSEPHINE EVERETT she/her (*Costume Designer*) is a costume designer, printmaker and teaching artist. Recent design credits include A ROCKIN' MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, MAN OF LA MANCHA, MUSEUM, DURANGO, THE SPACE OF UNCERTAINTY, and HOW TO KNOW THE WILDFLOWERS. She has worked with theaters including The Guthrie Theatre, Children's Theatre Company, Steppenwolf, Paramount Theater, The Jungle, Minnesota Opera, Remy Bumppo and Court Theater. She holds an MFA in costume design from Northwestern University and is excited to be making her Theatre Wit debut.

ELLIE FEY she/her (*Lighting Designer*) is a 25 year old Chicago based Lighting Designer and Electrician. She graduated from The Theatre School at DePaul University in 2023 with a BFA in lighting design. Some of her design credits include LOBBY HERO (Shattered Globe Theater), DAMN YANKEES, THE DROWSY CHAPERONE, URINETOWN, TL;DR, and TELL ME ON A SUNDAY (Theo Ubique Cabaret Theater), DIE FLEDERMAUS and TURN OF THE SCREW (The Music School at DePaul University), THE SUGAR WIFE, SUPERIOR DONUTS, BY THE WAY MEET VERA STARK, and WITCH (The Artistic Home), SOUTHERN RAPTURE (Tin Drum Theatre) THE UNKNOWN VARIABLE (Momentary Theatre), HERE BE SIRENS and FIZZ AND GINGER (Chicago Fringe Opera), SIDE BY SIDE BY SONDHEIM and THE LIFESPAN OF A FACT (Oil Lamp Theater), MEDEAMEDEAMEDEA (Theatre Evolve), THE COTTAGE (Citadel Theatre). Ellie has received two Jeff Award nominations for outstanding lighting design for her work on LOBBY HERO and WITCH. In the coming months she will be designing EVERLASTING FAINT at The Music School at DePaul University. She will be assistant designing TOPDOG/UNDERDOG at Steppenwolf Theatre and VLADIMIR at Shattered Globe Theatre. In the coming months, she will be designing EVERLASTING FAINT at The Music School at DePaul University, and assistant designing TOPDOG/UNDERDOG at Steppenwolf Theatre. You can check out her portfolio at www.elliemfeydesigns.com.

ANNAMAE DURHAM she/her (*Props Designer*) is pleased to be back for her 4th production with Theater Wit! Her previous credits as Props Designer include HURRICANE DIANE, THE WHISTLEBLOWER, and INANIMATE. She was the Assistant Props Supervisor at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre from 2022-2024 where she worked on THE NOTEBOOK, RICHARD III, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, TWELFTH NIGHT, MEASURE FOR MEASURE, THE COMEDY OF ERRORS, and JUDGEMENT DAY. She most recently worked in the Washington, DC area as the Props Supervisor at Roundhouse Theatre in Bethesda, Maryland. Credits include BAD BOOKS, THE INHERITANCE, PARTS ONE AND TWO, and RULES FOR LIVING. She's excited to be back in Chicago and collaborating with Theater Wit again.

DANIELLA BROWN she/her (*Sound Designer*) is thrilled to be part of the creative team for this regional premiere of ADOLESCENT SALVATION. As a queer artist of color, through sound, she seeks to amplify underrepresented voices and investigate the intersections of identity, culture, queerness, and the human experience. Daniella has an M.F.A. in Sound Design and Technology from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is a two-time recipient of the Region 8 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Award for

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

Theatrical Design Excellence in Sound Design (2022, 2023). Her recent credits include NATIVE GARDENS at Theatre Evolve, the regional premiere of PRIMARY TRUST at Hope Repertory Theatre, and THE COMEUPPANCE at The Human Race Theatre Company. She would like to thank her bestfriends, her family, and every artist and technician of color that came before her.

SARAH SCANLON she/her (*Intimacy Director*) is an IDC certified and SAG registry intimacy director/coordinator, actor, and educator working across theatre, television, and higher education. Recent theatre credits include Chicago Shakespeare Theater (AS YOU LIKE IT, RICHARD III, MEASURE FOR MEASURE, among others), Paramount Theatre (A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE), Drury Lane Theatre (CINDERELLA, GUYS AND DOLLS, ON YOUR FEET!, among others), Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival (ROMEO AND JULIET, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, among others), and Redtwist Theatre (HOW TO TRANSCEND A HAPPY MARRIAGE). Her theatre work spans classical repertoire, musicals, and new play development, with a focus on supporting bold, brave, and detailed physical storytelling. Her screen intimacy work includes Paramount+'s THE CHI, Apple TV+'s SHINING GIRLS, FX's FARGO, NBC's CHICAGO FIRE, MED, PD, HULU's DELI BOYS, and Amazon MGM's BARBER SHOP, among others. She is passionate about embodied performance through actor advocacy, uplifting the director's vision, and creating exciting repeatable movement to tickle the imagination. Sarah holds an MFA in Acting from the American Repertory Theater Institute at Harvard University and the Moscow Art Theatre School. She has taught at nearly every major university theatre program in Chicago, where she works with actors and directors on building consent-forward rehearsal rooms, communication techniques, contextualizing scripted and unscripted intimacy, movement choreography, and mental health safety practices for high-risk work. While she's been in this building as an actor, she is thrilled to be joining Theatre Wit for the first time along side a long-time collaborator and creative partner, Kate Booth.

KATE BOOTH she/her (*Fight Director*) is an actor and stage combat instructor around town. She is the Coordinator of Continuing Education at Open Gate Movement Arts and a founding member and devising/performing artist with To The Point, a traveling stage combat theatre troupe. She is excited to be welcomed at Theatre Wit for the first time, and to collaborate again with Sarah Scanlan! Elsewhere in the Chicago area, Kate has led or assisted fight direction on shows with Kokandy Productions, Paramount Theatre, Babes with Blades Theatre Co., Oak Park Festival Theatre, The Factory Theatre, and various high schools and universities. She regularly assists the stage combat classes at the Actors Gymnasium in Evanston, and she recently performed this summer as The Red Line with Point Theatre Project's GLADIATOR FIGHT NIGHT IN THE PARKS.

NOELLE HARRISON she/her (*Audience Design Manager*) is a longtime arts professional specializing in audience development and engagement. Her work at Theater Wit encompasses marketing, fundraising, special events and patron services, where she has been pleased to thrill audiences with her shenanigans, tomfoolery, and many, many emails. A transplant from the SF Bay Area, Noelle is also a singing member of the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus.

MATTHEW R. CHASE he/him (*Production Manager*) THEATER WIT: The Ally,

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

Inanimate, Who's Holiday!, Household Spirits, the Whistleblower, Hurricane Diane & Mr. Burns a post electric play. CHICAGO/PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT: Into America, Girls & Boys, Astronaut Group 1, The House Without a Christmas Tree, Mary's Seacole, Heisenberg (Griffin Theatre Company); The Secret Garden, Never Better, A Little Night Music, The Sondheim Tribute Revue, Assassins, Baked!; A New Musical, Passing Strange, The Threepenny Opera (Theo); Spring Awakening (Porchlight Music Theatre). REGIONAL/SOUND DESIGN: Always A Bridesmaid, Strangers On A Train (Meadow Brook Theatre); Assassins (Capital City Theater). CHICAGO/SOUND DESIGN: The Golden Girls: The Cheese Pyramid, A Lost Episodes parody, The Real Housewives of the North Pole (Hell in a Handbag Productions); Follies, The Irish ...And How They Got That Way, Fun Home, Sunday in the Park with George, Anything Goes, Ernest Shackleton Loves Me, Cabaret, Rent, Spring Awakening (Porchlight Music Theatre); Diana, Tell Me On A Sunday, The Secret Garden, Never Better, The Sondheim Tribute Revue, Assassins, Baked: A New Musical! (Theo); Rock of Ages (Metropolis Performing Arts Center) Legally Blonde: The Musical, Little Shop of Horrors, Shrek the Musical, The Producers, Pippin (Music Theater Works); Who's Holiday (Theater Wit); The House Without a Christmas Tree (Griffin Theatre Company); Elephant And Piggie's We Are in a Play (Marriott Theatre). www.matthewrchasedesign.com

DREW DONNELLY he/him (*Production Stage Manager*) is elated to join Theater Wit for this production! Originally from the panhandle of Texas, Drew got his Chicago start with Mary-Arrchie Theatre Company where work included THE GLASS MENAGERIE and SUPERIOR DONUTS. Recent work includes CABARET, FUN HOME, TITANIQUE (Porchlight Music Theatre), DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, THE ENIGMATIST, ISLANDER (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), and THE LEHMAN TRILOGY (TimeLine Theatre Company).

AVE FITZGERALD she/they (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is thrilled to be returning to Theater Wit! She holds a BFA in Theatre Tech/Design from Central Michigan University, focusing primarily on costumes and stage management. Recent works include Assistant Stage Manager for THE ALLY (Theater Wit), Costume Designer for HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARS ROVER, and Assistant Stage Manager and Wardrobe Supervisor/Costume Designer for TIGERS BE STILL (Sandbox Theatre Collective). She would like to thank her family, friends, and girlfriend for their support this past year since moving to the city.

NICK ZABEL he/him (*Technical Director*) is very excited to return to Theater Wit for this production (prior credits WHO'S HOLIDAY! '24/'25, INANIMATE, THE ALLY). He graduated Goshen College in 2017, and spent the following year working first as the Technical Director at Thunder Bay Theater in Alpena, MI (credits include THE ODD COUPLE, MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS, and SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD), then as a carpenter and the Technical Director at Timber Lake Playhouse in Mt. Carroll, IL (credits include BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, THE FULL MONTY, BEEHIVE, and BASKERVILLE). He returned to Chicago as a Technical Director and carpenter in 2018, working at a number of local theaters, including Theo Ubique (TELL ME ON A SUNDAY, DIANA, TL;DR, URINETOWN), Music Theater Works (CAMELOT, WHITE CHRISTMAS, and AVENUE Q), Porchlight Music Theater (THE IRISH, AND HOW THEY GOT THAT WAY) and Oakton College (DIARY OF ANNE FRANK, MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM,

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

SMOKEFALL, INDECENT). In addition to working in theater, Nick also has taught Tae Kwon Do for Connelly's Academy of Martial Arts at multiple Chicagoland schools for over fifteen years. Nick would like to thank his wife, parents, and cat for their consistent love and support over the years- he is lucky and grateful to have them in his life.

NICK CHAMERNIK he/him (*Lighting Supervisor*) is a Chicago-based freelance lighting designer, programmer, and technician. Theater Wit credits include THE ALLY, INANIMATE, HOUSEHOLD SPIRITS, and WHO'S HOLIDAY (Lighting Supervisor). Other Resident Theater Wit credits include Remy Bumpo Theatre Company's HEDDA GABLER, WISH YOU WERE HERE, ART, DEAR ELIZABETH, LOVE SONG, BLUES FOR AN ALABAMA SKY, GALILEO'S DAUGHTER, ANNA IN THE TROPICS, and PASSAGE (Lighting Supervisor/Head Electrician), Shattered Globe Theatre's RADIAL GRADIENT and THIS WIDE NIGHT (Head Electrician). Other Chicago credits include Lookingglass Theatre Company's WHITE ROOSTER and UNTITLED VAMPIRE PLAY (Lighting Programmer), and Goodman Theatre's THE WHO'S TOMMY (Projections Operator) and THE ANTIQUITIES (Run Crew). Nick is also the Lighting Supervisor at Chicago Children's Theatre. CCT Credits include GOODNIGHT MOON, THE BEATRIX POTTER HOLIDAY TEA PARTY, LEO LIONNI'S FREDERICK, GO DOG GO!/VE PERRO VE!, and MILO IMAGINES THE WORLD. www.nickchamernik.com

ARTHUR KARSON he/him (*Scenic Charge*) is a writer, director and scenic artist originally from Ohio. He Graduated from the University of Toledo in 2024, and previously painted WHO'S HOLIDAY!, and THE ALLY at Theater Wit. He would like to say, Free Palestine, abolish ICE, and thank you for coming to the show.

JEREMY WECHSLER he/him (*Artistic Director*) is the founding Artistic Director of Theater Wit which has grown into an essential hub of the artistic community in Chicago. Under Jeremy's leadership over the last twenty years, Theater Wit has emerged as a go to destination for cutting edge contemporary work, gaining national recognition for excellence. During his tenure, he has directed the Chicago premieres of THE ALLY, PRAYER FOR THE FRENCH REPUBLIC (Jeff Award), INANIMATE, THE WHISTLEBLOWER, HURRICANE DIANE (Jeff Award), THE REALISTIC JONESES, THE ANTELOPE PARTY, 10 OUT OF 12, NAPERVILLE (Jeff Award), THE NEW SINCERITY, THE (CURIOUS CASE OF THE) WATSON INTELLIGENCE (Best of 2015 - Sun Times), BAD JEWS (Best of 2015 - New City), MR BURNS: A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY (Time Out Peoples' Choice Award for Direction, Best of 2015), SEVEN HOMELESS MAMMOTHS WANDER NEW ENGLAND (Sun Times Best of Year 2014), COMPLETENESS, TIGERS BE STILL, THIS, THE FOUR OF US, FEYDEAU-SI-DEAU, MEN OF STEEL, THOM PAIN (BASED ON NOTHING) (Jeff Award - Best Solo Performance), TWO FOR THE SHOW and many many productions of THE SANTALAND DIARIES. He has directed over seventy shows in the last thirty years at various theaters, including TRAGEDY A TRAGEDY, THE FLU SEASON, A TASTE OF HONEY ("US Best of 2008" in The Wall Street Journal), NOW THEN AGAIN (Jeff Award - Best New Work), THE PLAY ABOUT THE SQUIRREL, THE WHITE DEVIL, THIS IS NOT A PLAY ABOUT CANCER,, TRAGEDY A TRAGEDY, TITUS ANDRONICUS, THE ROARING GIRL, HENRY VI: BLOOD OF A NATION, THE PROMISE, SPIN, UN ROBOT, HORROR ACADEMY, THE COARSE ACTING SHOW, CABARET and THE THREEPENNY OPERA. His productions have been nominated for and won multiple awards for direction, design, performance, adaptation and best new work. Upcoming projects include the Chicago premieres of DEAD OUTLAW and WE HAD A WORLD for Theater Wit and the world premiere of STRANGER DANGER in Los Angeles.



At Theater Wit

We are a theater company within a building, within a community, within a world.

As a production company, Theater Wit's mission is to be the premier "smart art" theater in Chicago by producing humorous, challenging, and intelligent plays that speak with a contemporary theatrical voice.

As an institution, Theater Wit seeks to be the hub of the Chicago neighborhood theater scene. In our three spaces, we bring together Chicago's best storefront theater companies. Here you will find a smorgasbord of excellent productions, see the work of a parade of talented artists, and mingle with audiences from all over Chicago.

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Everyone here: folks in the audience... the person who handed you this program... somewhere on or off the stage there are actors... if you look up in the corner you might get a glimpse of the stage manager in the booth... We're all in this room for the same reason: to be a part of this shared experience. No matter who they are or where they come from; no matter if they are complete strangers or familiar faces; no matter how different the age, the race, or the walk of life; after this performance, you will have something in common. So, strike up a conversation in the lobby, introduce yourself to someone new. Meet our staff, shake hands with an actor, get a drink from our bar. We're all in this together.

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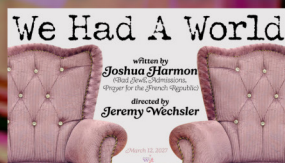
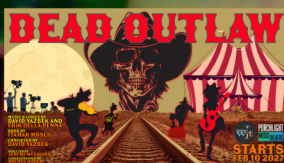
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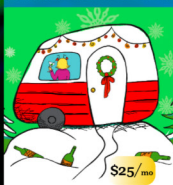
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