



**LYRIC THEATRE @ ILLINOIS PRESENTS**  
***THE WILD PARTY***  
**BOOK, MUSIC, AND LYRICS BY ANDREW LIPPA**

Julie Jordan Gunn, musical director  
Danny Yoerges and Rachel Rizzuto, directors  
Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 7:30pm  
Thursday–Friday, November 9–10, 2023, at 7:30pm  
Tryon Festival Theatre

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# WELCOME

Dear friends of Lyric Theatre,

We are very proud of the '23-24 season, beginning with *Lyric Under the Stars* at the stunning Allerton Sunken Gardens. Johann Strauss' effervescent *Die Fledermaus* will be accompanied by the Sinfonia da Camera in the Great Hall, and Andrew Lipka's *The Wild Party*, with its dark and driving score, will take us to new heights (or depths) of contemporary musical theatre. In the Spring, the annual *Carnaval!* celebration will feature Latin American, Caribbean, and French music, dance, food, and drink. *Fugitive Songs*, a folk and blues song cycle by Chris Miller and Nathan Tysen will be heard in intimate spaces like the Allerton Mansion, the Canopy Club, and the Rose Bowl Tavern. Finally, inspired by the Silver Age futuristic Russian poetry and art, *Black Square*, a world premiere by Ilya Demutsky on a concept of Igor Konyukhov with words by Olga Maslova, will

be set in a comedic utopia that reimagines the standards of happiness and beauty in a society free of suffering. We are so grateful to you, our community, for your support of our productions of the widest possible variety of inspiring sung theatre and storytelling. Making art at the Krannert Center and in Champaign-Urbana is a tremendous rewarding experience.

Yours,

Julie and Nathan Gunn  
Co-Directors, Lyric Theatre @ Illinois

# PROGRAM

## LYRIC THEATRE @ ILLINOIS PRESENTS

### **THE WILD PARTY**

Book, music, and lyrics by Andrew Lippa  
Based on the poem by Joseph Moncure March  
Danny Yoerges and Rachel Rizzuto, directors  
Julie Jordan Gunn, music director

*Time: 1920s*

*Place: New Orleans*

#### **ACT I**

1. Opening—Part 1
- 1a. Opening—Part 2
2. The Apartment
3. Out of the Blue
4. What a Party
5. Raise the Roof
6. Look at Me Now
7. He Was Calm
8. Poor Child
9. An Old-Fashioned Love Story
10. Intro to Scene Five
11. The Juggernaut

- 11a. Intro to "A Wild, Wild Party"
12. A Wild, Wild Party
- 12a. The Neighbor
13. Two of a Kind
- 13a. Helpless, Drowning
- 13b. Of All the Luck
14. Maybe I Like It This Way
15. What Is It About Her?

*20-minute intermission*

#### **ACT II**

16. The Life of the Party
- 16a. After "Life"
17. Who Is This Man
- 17a. Before "The Gal for Me"
- 17b. The Gal for Me
18. I'll Be Here
19. Listen to Me
- 19a. Intro to "Let Me Drown"
20. Let Me Drown
- 20a. After "Let Me Drown"
21. The Fight
22. Take a Hit
23. Intro to "Come With Me"
24. Come With Me
- 24a. The Telephone
25. Jackie's Last Dance
- 25a. Before "Make Me Happy"
26. Make Me Happy
- 26a. Poor Child Reprise
27. How Did We Come to This?

*This production includes the smoking of artificial tobacco products and substance abuse.*

*This production contains adult content, including sexual violence, as well as adult language and partial nudity. It is intended for mature audiences only.*

*This production includes strobe lighting, smog effects, and gun shots.*

*The Wild Party* was partially developed and received readings at the O'Neill Theater Center during the 1997 National Music Theatre Conference. It was originally produced in New York City by The Manhattan Theatre Club.

*The Wild Party* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

*Lyric Theatre @ Illinois is a proud part of the University of Illinois School of Music (Linda R. Moorhouse, director).*

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# DIRECTORS' NOTE

Hell is other people—but heaven is a party with them. The sharply-drawn characters of *The Wild Party* come for the free booze, but stay for the after-dinner show of their collective descent into moral turpitude. What's behind the all-too-human drive to affirm our bad choices in the company of others? Is it absolution? Redemption? Or is it just to have a good time? Whatever the reason, the impulse to revel in unholy communion is the fuel that feeds the furnace in this everlasting party that burns for us all, and awaits only our RSVP.

The source material for composer-lyricist-librettist Andrew Lipppa's *The Wild Party*, a 1926 poem of the same name by Joseph Moncure March, resonated with readers in its time. When millions of otherwise lawful Americans suddenly found themselves openly disregarding the constitutionally enshrined prohibition on alcohol, other formerly accepted norms of behavior fell like dominos. With the tethers of Victorian morality snapped, a wild animal of pent-up sexuality with an appetite for depravity was unleashed . . . and it hunted in packs. Though in the intervening years attempts have been made to confine it, this animal walks among us today—both forebear and party to modern society's sexual liberation.

Undoubtedly, Lipppa saw the parallels between the America of 1926 and 1997, the first year he workshopped this musical. Alongside early twentieth-century jazz and pastiche, he intertwines decidedly not period-appropriate

motifs, replete with electric guitar riffs and extended pop-rock drum moments. The interplay of these styles subtly shapes our perception of the story, and lends it a rapport with our own world in 2023. Factor in the all-too-familiar toxic-at-best/abusive-at-worst relationship between the two main characters, Queenie and Burrs, plus our collective pent-up emotion from three-plus years of social isolation, and suddenly you have a truly contemporary musical on your hands.

*The Wild Party* is thematically Shakespearean and spiritually Jerry Springer. A carnal gang of revenge, lust, jealousy, and rage is packed like sardines into a New Orleans shotgun shack—a tinderbox of epic proportions. As the lyrics state, "One wrong turn the whole place would burn, but who will strike the match?" At its heart, it's a morality play, a parable for what happens when people love recklessly and lose tragically. And it's not for the faint of heart.

We hope you enjoy our two-hour's dance with the devil. Sit forward. Don't relax. From now on, we're entertaining how to hotten up this hell.

—Danny Yoerges and Rachel Rizzuto, Directors

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# THE WILD PARTY

## **MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Julie Jordan Gunn

## **CO-DIRECTORS**

Danny Yoerges\*

Rachel Rizzuto

## **CHOREOGRAPHER**

Rachel Rizzuto

## **SCENIC DESIGNER**

Kate Spademan

## **COSTUME DESIGNER**

Khetag Tsabolov

## **LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Yingman Tang

## **SOUND DESIGNER**

Jaritt Catellier

## **INTIMACY COORDINATOR**

Gaby Labotka

## **STAGE MANAGER**

Allison Vogelmeier



*\*Member, Actors Equity Association*

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# CAST

*In order of appearance:*

## **QUEENIE**

Frida Guerra

## **BURRS**

Hector Camacho-Salazar

## **MADELAINE**

Mahal Childress

## **EDDIE**

Nathan Tilton

## **MAE**

Catheryn Kuhar

## **JACKIE**

Kyle Widener

## **OSCAR**

Ramman Takhsh

## **PHIL**

Alexander Pacheco

## **DOLORES**

Hayley Stachniak

## **NADINE**

Aliza Gussin

## **KATE**

Charlotte Bergel

## **BLACK**

Keith Johnson

## **MAX**

Christopher Commiso

## **SAM/ORGASMIC MAN**

Francesco Console

## **ENSEMBLE**

Campbell Coker

Maya Cornejo

Aiden Garland-Sutter

Maggie Hancock

Charlotte Howard-Check

Levi Petrine

Siena O'Connor

Lauren Zimmerman

## **COVERS**

*Eddie*

Christopher Commiso

*Phil*

Francesco Console

*Kate*

Hayley Stachniak

*Burrs*

Ramman Takhsh

*Oscar*

Kyle Widener

*Mae*

Campbell Coker

*Queenie*

Maya Cornejo

*Madeleine*

Levi Petrine

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# ORCHESTRA

## **REED 1**

Goio Lima

## **REED 2**

Cameron Jones

## **REED 3**

Laura Bauer

## **TRUMPET**

Austin Dunaway

## **GUITAR**

Ethan Dymit

## **BASS**

Sam Calhoon

## **DRUMS**

Maddi Vogel

## **PIANO**

Julie Gunn

## **KEYBOARDS**

Carl Pantle

William Murphy

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# PROFILES

*Lyric Theatre @ Illinois acknowledges with gratitude the cooperation of the voice and accompanying faculties of the University of Illinois School of Music in supporting the talented students in its productions.*

**Andrew Lippa's** (book, music, and lyrics) hit song *Evil Like Me* appears in Disney's *Descendants*. Written for Kristin Chenoweth, the film's soundtrack hit number one on the Billboard 200 album chart, is currently number one on the iTunes and Billboard soundtrack charts, and has been viewed over 9 million times on YouTube. He wrote the music and lyrics for *Big Fish*, book by John August, directed and choreographed by Susan Stroman, which played the Neil Simon Theater on Broadway. His epic oratorio for men's chorus, orchestra, and soloists, *I Am Harvey Milk* (words and music), was premiered by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, and the recording, released in October 2013, reached number two on the iTunes Classical Chart. *I Am Harvey Milk* was presented at Los Angeles' Disney Hall in July 2014 and in New York City at Lincoln Center in October 2014 starring Mr. Lippa as Harvey Milk. It has had over 20 productions across the USA.

He wrote the Tony-nominated music and lyrics for the Broadway musical *The Addams Family*, book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice (*Jersey Boys*), which opened in April 2010 and starred Nathan Lane and Bebe Neuwirth and has since been seen in over 1,000 productions worldwide. Mr. Lippa wrote the music for the Broadway production of Aaron Sorkin's (*The Social Network*, *A Few Good Men*) play *The Farnsworth Invention*, directed by Des McAnuff (*Jersey Boys*). *Asphalt Beach* (music and lyrics) was premiered at Northwestern University by the American Music Theatre Project in October 2006. *The Wild Party* (book/music/lyrics) was given its world premiere in 2000 at the Manhattan Theater Club in New York City. *The Wild Party* won the Outer Critics Circle Award for best Off-Broadway

musical of the season, and Mr. Lippa won the 2000 Drama Desk Award for best music. 2004 saw the premiere of *A Little Princess* (book and lyrics by Brian Crawley) at Theatreworks in Palo Alto, California. In 1999, he contributed three new songs to the Broadway version of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (including "My New Philosophy" for Tony-Award winner Kristin Chenoweth) and created all new arrangements. He wrote the music and co-wrote the book (with Tom Greenwald) for *John & Jen*, which premiered in New York City in 1995 at the Lamb's Theater and had a successful revival presented by the Keen Company in 2015 starring Kate Baldwin.

Mr. Lippa is proud to have been music director for Kristin Chenoweth since 1999 for many of her greatest concerts. He conducted/played her sold-out shows at the Metropolitan Opera House in NYC in 2007, at Carnegie Hall in 2004, and at the Donmar Warehouse in London in 2002. He has conducted the San Francisco, Chicago, and St. Louis Symphony Orchestras for Ms. Chenoweth, among others. Additionally, he is an accomplished singer having been heard in many venues in New York and, in 2005, as a guest artist at the Adelaide Cabaret Convention in Adelaide, Australia. Recordings include Julia Murney's CD *I'm Not Waiting* (producer, three songs); *The Addams Family* (Decca Broadway); *Big Fish* (Broadway Records); *The Wild Party* (RCA Victor) which he also produced; *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (RCA Victor), which earned him a Grammy Award nomination; *The Addams Family* (Decca Broadway); *A Little Princess* (Shk-boom); and *John & Jen* (Broadway Records). Jazz phenom Peter Cincotti recorded the song "Raise The Roof" on his CD titled *On the Moon*

(Phil Ramone, producer). In addition, Mr. Lippa produced the original cast recording of *Bat Boy* for RCA Victor and his singing voice can be heard on *The Sondheim Album* on Fynsworth Alley and *If I Sing* on PS Classics. Vocal selections from *The Addams Family*, *Big Fish*, *A Little Princess*, *The Wild Party*, and *John & Jen* are published by Hal Leonard. Hal Leonard also released *The Andrew Lippa Song Book* in Winter 2013.

Awards include a Tony and Grammy nomination, sharing in an Emmy for the Nickelodeon TV series *The Wonder Pets*, the Gilman/Gonzalez-Falla Theater Foundation Award, ASCAP's Richard Rodgers/New Horizons Award, the Drama Desk, the Outer Critics Circle, and second place for the Alice B. Deucey Award for all-around outstanding fifth-grader (lost to Cynthia Fink). Memberships include ASCAP, Actor's Equity, and the American Federation of Musicians. A graduate of the University of Michigan, Mr. Lippa serves as president of the Dramatists Guild Fund. He was born in Leeds, England but grew up in suburban Detroit. [www.andrewlippa.com](http://www.andrewlippa.com)



**Charlotte Bergel** (Kate) (she/her) is a senior at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign pursuing a BMA in lyric theatre performance with a minor in dance. She is currently studying classical and contemporary voice under Professor Sarah Wigley and previously studied with Professor Yvonne Redman.

Her past credits include *The Marvelous Wonderettes* (Suzy), *City of Angels* (Avril/Mallory), *Lyric Theatre Under the Stars*, and the Illini Student Musicals' production of *Little Women* (Aunt March). She hails from the Washington, DC area and has been in productions around the metropolitan area. This past summer, she attended the Boston Conservatory's Musical Theatre Acting Intensive at the Berklee School of Music, studying under Laura Marie Duncan. In

2019, she attended the Performing Arts Project: Blueprint and was a part of their 8th company.



Colombian tenor **Héctor Camacho-Salazar** (Burr) has led a career that spans several genres, including opera, oratorio, sacred music, and art song. In 2023, he played Edgardo in the University of Illinois Voice Area Opera *Lucia di Lammermoor*. He ventured into musical theatre in 2022, playing the role of Sergio Robusto in a Lyric Theatre @ Illinois production of Hilliard and Boresi's new work *Met: The Musical* in December 2022. In 2021, he played Ferrando in a New York production of *Così fan tutte*. In 2020, he performed as Gherardo in *Gianni Schicchi* at the Teatro Mayor Julio Mario Santo Domingo. He debuted as Tamino on the same stage in *The Magic Flute* in 2015. He has performed Handel's *Messiah*, J. S. Bach's *Magnificat*, F. P. Schubert's *Mass in E-flat Major*, and Berlioz's *Lélio, ou le retour à la vie*. In 2022, he won the first prize in the Male Voice category at the Bogotá Philharmonic National Voice Competition, the most prestigious award for singers in his native country, and he was a finalist in the Krannert Debut Artist Competition in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. He has received the merit-based Stotler Voice Fellowship at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2020, 2021, and 2022.



**Mahal Childress** (Madelaine) (they/any) has been performing throughout Champaign-Urbana since 2012. They are a senior pursuing an acting BFA and a minor in musical theatre at the University of Illinois as a student of Stephen Burdsall. They transferred from Parkland College after graduating with

an AA in theatre performance. Krannert Center credits include *Valiente* (Stage Directions), *The Revolutionists* (Ensemble Crew), and *The Neverland* (Mary 1/Karilagan). This past spring, they appeared in Station Theatre's production of *The Good Person of Setzuan* (Wang).



**Campbell Coker** (Ensemble/Mae Cover) (she/her) is a sophomore pursuing a BMA in lyric theatre and is a student of Professor Nathan Gunn's studio. Her past credits with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois include *City of Angels* (Angel City 4 Soprano Cover), *Lyric Under the Stars* (Soloist), *A Little Night Music*

(Mrs. Segstrom cover, Mrs. Nordstrom cover, Charlotte cover), and *Met: The Musical* (Cadence). Originally from Springfield, Campbell has spent her past three summers performing at the Legacy Theatre in *The Music Man* (Zaneeta), *My One and Only* (Sturgeon), and *Bullets Over Broadway* (Olive). She is currently the social media manager for Lyric Theatre @ Illinois and the publicist for Women's Glee Club.



**Christopher Commiso** (Max/Eddie Cover) (he/him) is a sophomore lyric theatre major from Chicago, Illinois and is the voice student of Professor Dawn Harris. Some of his past credits in lyric theatre include *City of Angels* (Luther Kingsley/Werner Krieger), *Trial By Jury* (Ensemble) and *Lyric's Allerton*

*Under The Stars* (Ensemble). Christopher is excited for you to see the show and hopes you enjoy Andrew Lipka's *Wild Party*!



**Francesco Console** (Sam/Orgasmic Man/Phil Cover) (he/they) is a junior lyric theatre major from Barrington Hills, Illinois. He is a voice student under Professors Nathan Gunn and Sarah Wigley. His past credits with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois include *City of Angels* (Shoeshine boy/Pasco/Buddy

Cover/Angel City 4 Baritone Cover/Sonny Cover) and *Lyric's Allerton Under the Stars* (Featured Soloist). Some other performance highlights include Illini Student Musicals' (ISM) production of *Freaky Friday* (Señor O'Brien/Louis) and ISM's production of *Into the Woods* (The Steward). He is very grateful for the endless amount of support from his friends and family and he hopes you enjoy the show!



**Maya Cornejo** (Ensemble/Queenie Cover) is a senior at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign pursuing her BMA in lyric theatre. She is a student of Dawn Harris and Sarah Wigley and would like to thank them for their amazing teaching. Maya was most recently seen in Lyric Theatre @

Illinois production of *Under the Stars* (Soloist) at Allerton Park and Retreat Center. Maya's other Lyric Theatre @ Illinois credits include *Lyric Theatre Under the Stars 2021-2022* (Soloist/Ensemble) at Allerton Park and Retreat Center, *A Little Night Music* (Mrs. Nordstrom & u/s Petra) and *Carnaval!* (Soloist) at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, and *City of Angels* (Ensemble & u/s Gabbi/Bobbie) at the Virginia Theatre. Maya is also a part of Illini Student Musicals; her previous credits include *Into the Woods* (Lucinda) and *Legally Blonde* (Vivienne). Over the summer she had the opportunity to attend The Performing

Arts Project and grow in her skills over the course of three weeks in voice, acting and dance. Maya would like to thank her family especially her mom and dad for their constant love and support. She hopes you enjoy the show!



**Aiden Garland-Sutter**

(Ensemble) is a sophomore lyric theater major at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign from Rochester, Illinois and is studying voice under Professor Nathan Gunn. He has been doing musical theater since he was 8 years old. Some of his credits include

*The Addams Family* (Uncle Fester), *Descendants* (Prince Ben), and *The Lion King* (Simba). He loves to rock out on the drums in his free time, especially when it's to The Beatles. He would like to thank his family and mentors over the years for supporting him and helping him get to where he is today.



**Frida Guerra** (Queenie) is a junior lyric theater major in Professor Sarah Wigley's studio at the University of Illinois. She grew up in Naperville, Illinois. You may have seen her as Anita and Vanessa in *Carnaval!* at Krannert Center, or in *City of Angels* at the Virginia Theatre.

Over the summer, she had the amazing experience of participating in a one-month music residency in Cambridge, England. Most of all, she thanks her parents for their endless love and support. She is excited for future endeavors and hopes you enjoy the show!

**Aliza Gussin** (Nadine) is a sophomore pursuing a BMA in lyric theatre, studying under the instruction of Professor Dawn Harris. You may

have seen her in LTI's 2022 *Carnaval!* as a *Le Festin* soloist, in addition to being a member of the ensemble. She also performed the Benedictus movement with University Chorus's 2022 Little Organ Mass concert. She is very excited to perform alongside so many talented musicians. During her summers, Aliza teaches children drama and dance at Camp Ramah. She hopes you enjoy the show!



**Maggie Hancock** (Ensemble) (she/her) is a sophomore pursuing a BMA in lyric theatre at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is a student of Dawn Harris and would like to thank her for all of her support and guidance. She has most recently performed in the ensemble of

Lyric Theatre @ Illinois' production of *Under the Stars* at Allerton Park and Retreat Center. You also may have seen her as a dancer in Lyric Theatre's *Carnaval!* at Krannert Center in 2023. Also on campus, she has performed in Illini Student Musicals' production of *Freaky Friday* as Gretchen and was the assistant choreographer for Illini Student Musicals' *Grease*, both playing at Lincoln Hall. She wants to thank everyone involved in this production for their hard work. Maggie has loved being part of this production, and can't wait to share it with you. She hopes you all enjoy the show!



**Charlotte Howard-Check** (Ensemble) is currently a junior pursuing a BFA in acting at the University of Illinois with a minor in musical theatre. Her credits include *Under the Stars* (Ensemble), *Coriolanus* (Citizen), *Urinetown* (Penelope Pennywise), and *The 48*

(Martha). She has also been seen at the Armory Free Theatre in *Alternative Lifestyles* (Megan/Katherine/Lonnie). She hopes you enjoy the show! She also sends love to her family and friends that have supported her over the years.



**Keith Johnson** (Black) is excited to make his Lyric Theatre @ Illinois debut! Credits: *In the Heights* (Mill Mountain), *Dreamgirls* (Arrow Rock Lyceum), *Aida* (Stages St. Louis), *Bring It On* (HSVPA), *Cats* (San Diego Music Theatre), *A Chorusline* (Rocky Mountain Rep), *Grease* (HSVPA). Keith

attributes his success to the Holy Spirit's guidance; God's provision; and the unshakeable support from his family, TVC, and Ms. McGraw! BBDD Phil 4:8.



**Catheryn Kuhar** (Mae) is a junior pursuing a BMA in Lyric Theatre. She is a current student of Nathan Gunn and Sarah Wigley. Her past credits with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois include *A Little Night Music* (Fredrika); *Trial by Jury* (Bridesmaid); *City of Angels* (Mallory Cover); and *Carnaval!* (Featured Vocalist).

Her most recent production was *Lyric Under the Stars* this September at the Allerton Park and Retreat Center. Over the summer, Catheryn worked as a cantor for her parish and covered shifts at her family's private optometry practice. She would like to thank her family and friends for their endless support toward her craft and share her appreciation for every hand that contributed to this incredible show.

**Siena O'Connor** (Ensemble/Dance Captain) (she/her) is a junior from Athens, Georgia. She is currently pursuing a BMA in lyric theater as a student under Dawn Harris and Sarah Wigley. With Lyric Theater @ Illinois, she has been seen in *Carnaval!* (Ensemble/Dance Captain) and *A Little Night Music* (Osa) at Krannert Center and *Lyric Under the Stars* (Featured Vocalist) at Allerton Park and Retreat Center in both 2022 and 2023. On campus, past credits also include *Nightingale Won't Remember by Tomorrow* (Katherine Blake), *Freaky Friday* (Gretchen's Mom/Savannah's Minion), and *Grease* (Scientist/Lightning Dancer.) When not performing, she teaches dance at Urbana Fine Arts Center and also choreographed Lyric Theatre's *Trial by Jury*. She is honored to be a part of this production and would like to thank her family and friends for their endless love and support!



**Alexander Pacheco** (Phil) (he/him) is a junior pursuing a BMA in lyric theatre. He is a student of Sarah Wigley. He has previously been featured in *Lyric Theatre Under the Stars* (Ensemble) and was a member of the 2021 IHSTF All-State Virtual Showcase. He won first place in the 2022 NATS Musical

Theatre First Year TTB Voice Competition and was the winner of the vocal division and overall finalist of the Peoria Symphony Guild's Young Artists Competition from 2018–2020. He is also a member of the McNair Scholars program and conducts research on vocal pedagogy and accessibility in music education. Alexander strives to bring the perspective of a transgender, disabled individual to all of his artistic endeavours, and hopes to provide representation for other young artists like himself.



**Levi Petriner** (Ensemble/ Madeleine Cover) (they/any) is a sophomore pursuing a BMA in lyric theatre here at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Recent credits at the university include *Lyric Theatre Under the Stars* (Featured Performer), *City of Angels* (Cover/Swing), and *Trial*

by Jury (Ensemble). They thank their parents for supporting their passions and their teachers for their encouragement. Enjoy the show!



**Hayley Stachniak** (Dolores/ Kate Cover) is a senior pursuing a BMA in lyric theatre with a creative concentration. She is a current student of Sarah Wigley and is beyond grateful for the education and support she has received thus far. Hayley is eager and excited to finally be on a Krannert

Center stage after dedicating her time as music director and arranger for No Comment A Cappella for three years. She most recently performed as a soloist in *Lyric Under the Stars* and cannot wait to continue performing with her peers! She would like to thank her family and friends for all of the love and support she has received throughout the years. Hayley also wants to dedicate her performances to a very dear friend and inspiration, Michael Termine.



**Nathan Tilton** (Eddie) is a junior pursuing a BMUS in vocal performance and a minor in German. He is a student of Professor Gunn, Professor Wigley, and Professor Tilley. He has previously been seen as Antonio in *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Lyric Under the Stars* (Soloist),

*Into the Woods* (Baker), *A Little Night Music* (Mr. Lindquist), and he played Walt in the premiere workshop of *MET the Musical*. He would like to thank all of his teachers for all their care and advice. He would also like to thank his mother for her constant love and support.



**Ramman Takhsh** (Oscar/Burrs Cover) is a senior from Chicago, Illinois, currently pursuing a BMA in lyric theatre. He is a student of both Sarah Wigley and Nathan Gunn. His past credits with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois include *City of Angels* (Jimmy Powers/Mahoney/Stine Cover), *Fun Home* (Roy/Pete/

Mark/Bobby Jeremy), and *A Little Night Music* (Bertrand). On campus, he has also been involved in the Illini Student Musicals productions of *Freaky Friday* (Mike), *Legally Blonde* (Grandmaster Chad/Ensemble) and *Little Women* (John Brooke). He would like to thank his parents for their constant love and support.

**Kyle Widener** (Jackie/Oscar Cover) is a junior studying lyric theatre at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. While at U of I he has been involved in Lyric Theatre's *Under the Stars*, *Carnaval!*, and *City of Angels*. He has also been involved in Illini Student Musicals' *Into the Woods*, where he played Jack; *Legally Blonde*; and *Freaky Friday*, where he played Fletcher. He is under the instruction of Sarah Wigley. He would like to thank all his wonderful directors and cast mates for a great show. He would also like to thank his amazing parents and family for their endless support.

**Lauren Zimmerman** (Ensemble) is a senior pursuing a Bachelor of Musical Arts in lyric theatre. She is currently a student of Sarah Wigley and has previously studied with Nathan Gunn. Her past credits with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois include

*City of Angels* (Alaura/Carla Cover), *Carnaval!* (Soloist/Dance Captain), *A Little Night Music* (Anne Egerman), *The Marvelous Wonderettes* (Cindy Lou and Missy Cover), as well as *Lyric Under the Stars* (Soloist). She has also performed with Illini Student Musicals in *Into the Woods* (Cinderella) and *Little Women* (Marmee March). Originally from Salina, Kansas, some of her hometown credits include *Xanadu* (Calliope), *All Shook Up* (Miss Sandra), and *Dreamland* (Quinn). Lauren is also a first member of the Chamber Singers at the University of Illinois.

Music has always been a part of **Julie Gunn's** (Music Director) life, and yet it is her devotion to it that has brought her accolades from around the world as a performer, producer, teacher and advocate. Her work often supports and promotes emerging creative or performing artists. Trained as a pianist, she has performed on most of the world's most prestigious recital series with distinguished colleagues, but most importantly with her husband and artistic partner Nathan Gunn.

Co-Director of Lyric Theatre @ Illinois, Dr. Gunn produces numerous operas or musical theatre works each year at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and other regional venues. She enjoys producing larger celebrations—*Lyric Under the Stars* at Allerton Park and Retreat Center—and *Carnaval!* at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts—combining spectacular performances with festive hospitality. The Gunns' production company, Shot in the Dark Productions Inc, specializes in customized musical and theatrical events.

She has given masterclasses at universities and young artists' programs all over the United States and Canada and has served as a coach or conductor at many distinguished opera houses. She has conducted several chamber operas and musical theatre works for Lyric Theatre and is

the author of many arrangements of songs for chamber groups and orchestras.

She is an advocate for initiatives benefiting the arts and children's lives. She served as the interim director of the Glimmerglass Festival Young Artists' Program in 2022. She was appointed Rector of the Arts and Performing Arts of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois by Governor JB Pritzker. She served as the president of the Countryside School Board of Directors and is a court-appointed special advocate for children.

She attended Dartmouth College, majoring in economics, and received her master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois, where she has been awarded the Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award. She lives in Champaign, Illinois with her husband, Nathan, where they raised their five children.

**Rachel Rizzuto** (Co-Director/Choreographer) (she/her) is an educator, performer, choreographer, and dance writer who seeks to thwart other people's expectations of what it means to be a woman as an integral part of her practice. She spent nine years dancing for the Brooklyn-based company Mari Meade Dance Collective/MMDC before earning her MFA in dance at the University of Illinois in 2021. Most recently, she has had the pleasure of performing in the work of Sara Hook, Jennifer Monson, Rebecca Netti-Fiol, Tere O'Connor, Elliot Reza Emadian, and Renata Sheppard. Currently, Rizzuto is an assistant teaching professor at the University of Illinois in the dance department. For the last seven years, she has self-produced *Love Sucks*, a perennially-changing work for a large cast that utilizes pop music, dance, song, and text to illustrate the inescapable heartache that accompanies falling in and out—mostly out—of love. Rizzuto served as an editor for *Dance Teacher* magazine from 2012–18 and remains one of its and *Dance Magazine's* contributing writers.

She graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2009 with a BFA in dance and a BA in English.

**Danny Yoerges** (Co-Director) is a professional actor, writer, director, and theatre educator. A twelve-year member of Actors Equity Association, he has appeared in regional theatre across the country, on television, and in the Broadway national tour of the Tony Award-winning *War Horse*. His background in improvisation, movement, and musical theatre serves as the basis for his theatrical devising and directorial endeavors, including the multidisciplinary performance piece *Love Sucks*, which he has written and co-directed with his wife, Rachel Rizzuto, annually for the past seven years. He served as assistant director to Nathan Gunn for the University of Illinois' *Le nozze di Figaro* in 2022. Danny is currently a visiting assistant professor of acting, voice, and speech at Millikin University in Decatur. He holds an MFA in acting from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and a BFA in acting from UNC School of the Arts. [www.dannyyoerges.com](http://www.dannyyoerges.com)

**Gaby Labotka** (Intimacy Coordinator) (she/they/anything respectful) is a Chicago-based, multidisciplinary theatre artist who works as an actor, director, intimacy director, fight director, and choreographer across the country. She is a fierce advocate for respect, empathy, representation, inclusion, and safety in the theatre, and they are dedicated to making art that reflects that. Broadway: *Paradise Square* (Intimacy Director). Regional (selected): *A View From the Bridge* (Shattered Globe, Fight and Intimacy Director); *Lucy and Charlie's Honeymoon* (Lookingglass, Intimacy Director); *The Writer and Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* (Steep, Intimacy and Fight Director); *House of Joy* (Repertory Theatre St. Louis, Fight and Intimacy Director); *Revenge Song* (Oregon

Shakespeare Festival, Asst. Director and Asst. Fight Director); and *The First Deep Breath* (Victory Gardens, Fight and Intimacy Director). Training: Intimacy Directors & Coordinators, Society of American Fight Directors, Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA), Pig Iron Advanced Performer Training, Illinois State University (BA, acting and directing with exceptional merit in the arts). [@theatre\\_warrior](http://www.gabylabotka.com)

**Jaritt Catellier** (Sound Designer) (he/him) is a second-year graduate student from Joliet, Illinois pursuing an MFA in sound design and technologies. He is a 2022 graduate from Illinois State University, where he received a Bachelor of Science with a focus in theatrical sound. Previously, he earned his Associate in Fine Arts at Joliet Junior College. His recent show credits include sound designer for the *Theatre Studies New Works Project* (University of Illinois), sound designer for *The Laramie Project* (Joliet Junior College), and the sound engineer for the 2022 Illinois Shakespeare Festival.

**Yingman Tang** (Lighting Designer) is currently a fourth-year graduate student in lighting design at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She comes from Szechuan, China. Her credits include *The Royale*, *Urinetown*, *February Dance 2022* at Krannert Center; *Newsies* and *Shrek* at Balibay Theatre; *Fear and Misery of the Third Reich* at Duanjun Theatre, Shanghai; Maigi Jiao's personal concert and Siena Nishizawa's personal concert at Morden Sky, Shanghai; and ICME/EMW's new media concert at Shanghai Concert Hall; etc. She directed *Death Variations* at Armory Free Theatre. Yingman's installation artist work *The whole* was selected for Prague Quadrennial 2019.

**Allison Vogelmeier** (Stage Manager) is a senior pursuing a BFA in stage management. She has

been privileged to work at the Krannert Center as the stage manager for *Carnaval!*, *October Dance*, and *Izles*, the 2022 Senior Dance BFA Concert. She most recently worked on Lyric Theatre's *City of Angels* in collaboration with The Virginia Theatre as an assistant stage manager. She has worked as the ASM on *The Neverland*, *The Nutcracker*, *StuDiOdance Fall*, *November Dance*, and the Theatre Studies New Works Festival. In 2023 she was honored to stage manage *Twelfth Night* for Montana Shakespeare in the Park's 50th Season. She wants to thank her family and friends for their love and support throughout her four years at the University of Illinois.

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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The University of Illinois System carries out its mission in its namesake state, which includes the traditional territory of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, Menominee, Ho-Chunk, and Chickasaw Nations. These lands continue to carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

As a land-grant institution, the University of Illinois has a particular responsibility to acknowledge the peoples of these lands, as well as the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of this institution. We are also obligated to reflect on and actively address these histories and the role that this university has played in shaping them.

This acknowledgment and the centering of Native peoples is a start as we move forward.

Krannert Center affirms the commitment by the university to move beyond these statements, toward building deeper relationships and taking actions that uphold and preserve Indigenous rights and cultural equity.

As we gather to experience this performance, we have an opportunity to reflect on the ways that systems of oppression have shaped our society. We can work together to create systems that support human dignity, establish equity, strengthen cross-cultural relationships, and draw upon the creative capacity of all people that make up this community, state, nation, and world.

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# SUPPORT

The importance of philanthropy has never been greater. Please consider gifts to the Illinois Lyric Theatre and Opera Support Fund, the Music at Illinois Fund, the Krannert Center Lyric Theatre Student Excellence Fund, and Support Krannert Center Today (Unrestricted Fund) to ensure the future of the arts at Illinois.

For more information on ways to give, visit [music.illinois.edu/give-now](https://music.illinois.edu/give-now) or [krannertcenter.com/giving/invest-now](https://krannertcenter.com/giving/invest-now).



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Judah Farha, Associate Director for  
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Maureen V. Reagan, Associate Director  
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Bree Brock, Production Coordinator  
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David Drake, Advancement Team  
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## PRODUCTION

Terri Anne Ciofalo, Director  
of Production  
Maria Miguens, Interim Production  
Manager

## Audio Department

Rick Scholwin, Audio Director  
Alec LaBau, Associate Audio Director/  
Video Director

## Costume Shop

Andrea Bouck, Costume Director

Richard Gregg, Costume Rentals Director/  
Wardrobe Adviser/Associate Costume  
Director  
Paige Stewart-Rankins, Hair & Makeup  
Supervisor  
Julianna Steitz, First Hand  
April McKinnis, EB McTigue,  
Cutters/Drapers  
Kari Little-McKinney, Theatrical Stitcher

## Lighting Department

Lisa Kidd, Lighting Director  
David Krupla, Associate Lighting Director  
Nick Jukes, Lighting and Media  
Technician

## Properties Department

Adriane Binky Donley, Properties Director  
Kira Lyon, Assistant Properties Director

## Scene Shop

Ryan Schultz, Technical Director  
Tatsuya Ito, Associate Technical Director  
Bill Kephart, Scene Shop Chief Clerk  
Bobby Reynolds, Theatrical Scene Shop  
Coordinator  
Liam Romano, Kayley Woolums, Theatrical  
Scene Shop Assistants

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## PERFORMING ARTS BUSINESS

### SERVICE CENTER

Debbie Delaney, Stacey Elliott, Shelly  
Thomas-Eichorn, Accounting Staff

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# WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE AT THE CENTER

We work to create the best possible setting for the experiences you seek and find here.

## NECESSARIES

Restrooms are located in the foyers of Foellinger Great Hall, Tryon Festival Theatre, and Colwell Playhouse; the east entrances on the Lobby level; and in each elevator lobby on Level 1 and Level 3. Lobby restrooms and one restroom in each elevator lobby are fully accessible and contain baby-changing stations.

Ushers will be happy to provide you cough drops courtesy of St. Joseph Apothecary, or disposable foam earplugs if the place starts rockin'.

If you or a companion needs medical assistance, contact an usher or other staff member.

Please take a moment before the performance to note the theatre exits nearest to you. If it becomes necessary to evacuate the theatre, please remain calm, follow the instructions of the house staff, and exit in an orderly fashion to the appropriate safe meeting location, which will be announced to you.

## PHONES AND DEVICES

The use of cell phones, cameras, and recording devices during performances is prohibited unless otherwise announced from the stage.

## LATE ARRIVALS

As a courtesy to performers and audience members, latecomers will be seated only at times selected in advance by the artist. Should you find that you've arrived late to a performance, our Patron Services staff will keep you informed about the earliest seating opportunity.

## LOST ITEMS

If you are in need of Lost and Found, please visit the Patron Services counter. We will do our best to reunite object and owner!

## TICKET RETURNS

If you find you can't attend a performance, please contact the Ticket Office in advance, preferably by 6pm the day before the performance (kran-tix@illinois.edu). We never charge a handling fee on ticket transactions.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts is committed to making experiences accessible for all patrons, and we are delighted to provide a number of services to assist you. Krannert Center is equipped with an assisted listening system, wheelchair-accessible and no-step/few-step seating, and large-print programs, Braille programs, and American Sign Language interpreters are available with three weeks' advance notice.

For assistance regarding your visit, please email:

Para ayuda en relación con su visita, favor de enviar un email a:

Pour vous aider dans votre visite, prière de nous envoyer un courriel à:

欢迎! 如若您对您的造访需要帮助, 请发送电子邮件至:

स्वागत हे! अगर आपको अपने रहने के लिए मदद चाहिए, ईमेल कीजिए:

환영합니다! 방문에 관해 도움이 필요하실 때에는 ...  
에게 이메일로 문의하시기 바랍니다:

**PATRONSERVICES@KRANNERTCENTER.ILLINOIS.EDU**  
**217.333.9716**

TH-SA JAN 18-20 AT 7:30PM

INDIAN INK  
THEATRE COMPANY:  
**MRS. KRISHNAN'S PARTY**



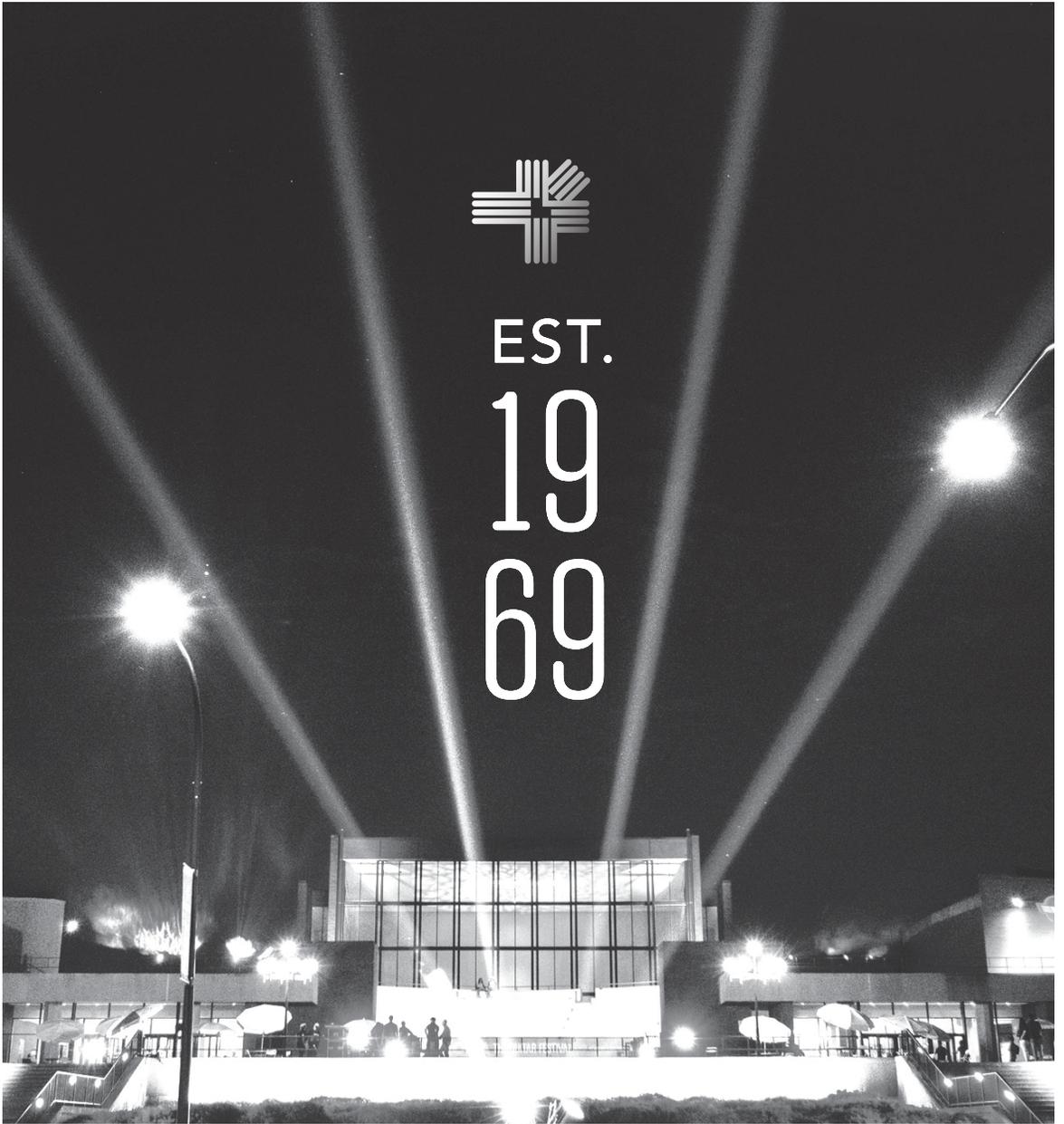
 krannert center



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\$10 U OF I STUDENT TIX  
**10**

## COME AS YOU ARE. LEAVE DIFFERENT.



U of I students, come on in. In whatever clothes, whatever state of mind, from whatever world of experience, you are welcome here. We don't have a dress code, we don't have an opinion code, and we want the Center to be your kind of place. Because of the vital support of Krannert Center donors and the Krannert Center U of I student fee, U of I students never pay more than \$10 for a ticket, and dozens of events each year are completely free.

Your presence helps to make Krannert Center a place like nowhere else—and what you can experience here makes your education like nobody else's. If you are inspired by what you find here, invite others to join you.

When you come to Krannert Center, we promise that you'll leave different: refreshed, reaffirmed, renewed!

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