PITT STAGES proudly presents the 2024-25 Season



; **[** ;] ī Written by T.J.Young Directed by Ricardo Vila-Roger Nov. 15-22, 2024 Charity Randall Theatre 4301 Forbes Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15213 I

Produced by special arrangement with Stage Partners yourstagepartners.com

Originally commissioned by Pittsburgh Public Theater Marya Sea Kaminski, Artistic Director; Lou Castelli, Managing Director



Written by TJ Young Directed by Ricardo Vila-Roger

Cast

Alex	Miya Gaines
Jordan	Benjamin Stolarz
Reese	Nat Brue
Ezra	Spade You
Taylor	Rachel Pronesti
Brooklyn	Victoria Murphy
Dakota	Lola Hodgins
Emerson	Sarah Dugan
Kai	Nelson Niko Bertran

Understudies

Alex/Taylor/Emerson	Gianna Healy
Jordan/Reese	Kush Rajesh
Ezra/Kai, Fight Captain	Shannon Zelinsky
Brooklyn/Dakota	Mayce Lee

A NOTE FROM A GRATEFUL DIRECTOR:

This is not the director's note I thought I would write when I found out that I'd be directing this play for our season. Not even close.

On the first week of classes, I got a message through a medical app telling me that I had an abnormal CT scan. Two weeks later, on the afternoon our first day of auditions, an app told me I had a confirmed cancer diagnosis. One month into the semester, I had surgery to remove it. I won't share more details except to say that the doctors took the cancer all out and it has not spread.

Additionally, it feels like the world, and our country in particular, is a giant dumpster fire. We may be tempted to lose hope or stop trying to make things better. It can feel easier to retreat than to keep moving forward.

I am not writing this to elicit sympathy or fear, but rather to tell you how healing the rehearsals and my time with this cast and crew have been. The constant laughter in rehearsal was the energy boost I didn't know I needed. I can't thank these folks enough for their hard work, dedication, and most of all, the pure joy with which they approached this work. It didn't matter how sore or tired I was. It didn't matter if I had times when I started to lose hope. I always wanted to be in the room with them because it ALWAYS made me feel better.

When we're sad or scared or angry, it can seem like we'll feel like this forever. We won't. The time working on this show reminded me that it is in the most difficult times that we need to seek out even the smallest of joys. Don't feel guilty for those moments of happiness - revel in them.

This play is a love letter to theater. There's no hidden meaning or extra deep message you're meant to take away from it. This is for your entertainment. It is meant to bring laughter. I hope this show brings you as much joy as it has brought me.

Ricardo Vila-Roger, Director

Production Team

Assistant Directors	Jeremy Khan Lucia Troiano Olivia Wick
Fight & Intimacy Director	Tonya Lynn
Scenic Designer	Natalie Mabry
Assistant Scenic Designer	Liza Brown
Costume Designer	Brittany Graham
Assistant Costume Designers	Claire Stemmer Mimzy Zoffel
Puppet Designer	Ricky Lyle
Lighting Designer	Isabel Sinnott
Assistant Lighting Designer	Colin Eccher
Sound Designer	Howard Patterson
Assistant Sound Designer	Stefania Di Michele
Stage Manager	Talia Buonora
Assistant Stage Managers	Jared Donelson Ceili Schiller Julia Ferranti

This digital program allows us to reduce paper consumption and divert printing costs to supporting students' education, creative explorations, and excellence. Click each individual's name to learn more about them. Navigate to credit listings using the links at the bottom of each page.

Playwright Biography

TJ Young (playwright) is a Texas-born playwright and dramaturg based in Pittsburgh where he serves co-representative for the Dramatists Guildas Pittsburgh region. His plays include No. 6 (2017 Harold and Mimi Steinberg Award Winner - KCACTF, Indiana Repertory Theatre), Lyon's Den (2018 Harold and Mimi Steinberg Distinguished Play Winner), Dark Skinned Pavement (2020 Inkslinger Playwriting Award Winner), Ruby's Baby Blue (2016 John Cable Short Play Regional Selection-KCACTF), Hell is Empty (2017 John Cable Short Play Regional Selection KCACTF), Hallmark (TETA Playfest 10-minute Winner), The Inseparables, and Sperm Donor Wanted. His 10-minute plays are: "Before The Fire" (Fade to Black 2018 Festival Selection), "Effie", "Rock The Cradle," "Lilies," and "Stuffed." He was the recipient of the 2017 Ken Ludwig Playwriting Scholarship. He has had productions at Texas State University as part of their New Works Festival, Director/Designer Collaboration Project, and as part of their 2016-2017 Main Stage Season. He was the 2019 Spotlight Artist of Throughline Theatre Company in Pittsburgh, PA. He received his MFA in Dramatic Writing from Texas State University. He has been a Teaching Artist with City Theatre in Pittsburgh and worked with Quantum Theatre in Pittsburgh. He is also the NPP Vice-Chair for Region 2 of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

Cast Biographies

Nelson Niko Bertran (Kai) makes a bombastic return to Pitt Stages in *The Inseparables*. He's a clinical psychology major focused on GSWS and sociology. His previous credits include *As You Like It* (Jaques), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oberon), and *Antony and Cleopatra* (Antony), along with the Pitt Stages productions of *John Proctor is the Villain* (Mason Adams) and *Cheating Fate* (Amin). He is grateful for everyone involved in this production.

Nat Brue (Reese) is excited to perform in their first show with Pitt Stages. They are a junior media and professional communications major with a double minor in political science and law, criminal justice, and society. They are grateful to work with such a talented cast and crew, and they hope everyone enjoys the show!

Sarah Dugan (Emerson) is a sophomore marketing major with a minor in theatre arts. Past acting credits include *Hide* (Marigold) with Vigilance Theatre Company, "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" (Hansel/Dwarf #2/Johannes) with Pitt Stages, and *Jekyll and Hyde* (Poole/Ensemble) with Pitt MTC. Past crew positions include *Legally Blonde* (ASM) with Pitt MTC and *Spring Awakening* (Run Crew) with Pitt Stages. She would like to thank her friends and family for their endless love and support as well as the cast and crew for putting up with her laugh and craziness.

Miya Gaines (Alex) is a senior theatre and linguistics student at Pitt. She has been involved with Pitt Stages since their Freshman year in 2020, first taking on the role of Naomi in "Hair Waiting." They have been in several productions working both onstage—as in *Dance Nation* (Amina) and *John Proctor is the Villain* (Nell)—and backstage—as in *Why We Have A Body* (Dresser), "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" (Dramaturg), and *Spring Awakening* (Painter). Outside of the theatre, Miya serves on the e-board of Crown Culture as secretary.

Gianna Healy (U/S Alex/Taylor/Emerson) is a sophomore molecular biology major and theatre minor. At the University of Pittsburgh, she has been in Pitt Stage's "That's Not How I Remember It" (Jessica/Nurse 1) and ran crew in MTC's *Legally Blond*. Other recent works include *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Esmeralda) and *The Crucible* (Mary Warren).

Lola Hodgins (Dakota) is thrilled to be making her Pitt Stages debut! She is a senior studying urban studies, as well as urban planning and geographical analysis. Previously, she has worked on *Jekyll & Hyde* (Emma), *Urinetown* (Little Sally), and the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Logianne).

Mayce Lee (U/S Brooklyn/Dakota) is excited to be in her first Pitt Stages Production. She is working towards a degree in psychology and a minor in neuroscience. Some of Mayce's most recent work includes *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Ensemble) and *The Crucible* (Abigail Williams).

Victoria Murphy (Brooklyn) is a junior double major in theatre arts and political science with a secondary education minor. She has appeared in Pitt Stages' *Corsicana* (Justice) and *Cheating Fate* (Layla). Since 2023, Victoria has proudly served as President of Performance Collaborative at Pitt. She is also an active member of the Musical Theatre Club, Redeye Theatre Project, and The Imagination Project. Her recent work in the Pittsburgh area includes *Bandstand* with Front Porch Theatricals (Assistant Director and understudy for *Paula and Wayne's Wife*, performing in three shows) and *A...My Name is Still Alice* (Assistant Stage Manager).

Benjamin Stolarz (Jordan) is excited to perform in his second Pitt Stages production. He is currently an industrial engineering major and theater arts minor. He has recently performed in South Park Theatre's *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Featured Ensemble), Pitt Stages' *Spring Awakening* (Ensemble/U.S.), Performance Collaborative's *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Jack Worthing), and Pitt Musical Theater Club's Legally Blonde (Emmett Forrest).

Rachel Pronesti (Taylor) is very excited to be in her third Pitt Stages production. She is a political science major with two minors in gender, sexualities, and women's studies, and law, criminal justice, and society. She has previously appeared in *The 39 Steps* (Swing/Understudy) and "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" (Actor, Audience Member, King). Rachel is also a proud board member of Pitt's Performance Collaborative, Healing Harmonies, and BridgePittsburgh.

Kush Rajesh (U/S Jordan/Reese) is excited to be in his first show with Pitt Stages. He is an English literature major and a freshman. He has previously been in *Radium Girls* (Arthur Roeder), *Almost Maine* (Chad, Jimmy, Phil) and has worked backstage on *The Little Mermaid* as running crew.

Spade You (Ezra) is very excited about her first mainstage show at Pitt. She is a senior theatre arts major and philosophy minor. She has participated in *Jekyll and Hyde* (John Utterson) and *Very Berry Dead* (McGill). She has also previously done crew work in *Corsicana* (run crew), *Abduction* (dresser) and *Julius Caesar* (stage manager and fight captain).

Shannon Zelinsky (U/S Ezra/Kai, Fight Captain) is a senior theater arts major and LCJS minor. She is ecstatic to be a part of her first Pitt Stages production! Some of her previous work includes singing in 5 concerts with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, *Fiddler on The Roof* (u/s Fruma Sarah, Ensemble, Costume Designer), *Spelling Bee* (Rona), *Almost Main* (Marvalyn), *Our Town* (Mrs. Webb), *Mary Poppins* (Bird Woman/Miss Andrew), and *Noises Off!* (Poppy). She also volunteers as Princess Merida to visit children at Children's Hospital.

Director's Biography

Ricardo Vila-Roger (Director) is the head of performance in the Theatre Arts Department at Pitt as well as a freelance actor/director/intimacy acting credits choreographer. Recent include Indecent & Murder on the Orient Express (Pittsburgh Public), and Bubble Boy (Arcade Comedy Theater), & a director and resident artist for Pittsburgh Public Theater's Writer's Collective and Summer PlayTime Series. Pitt Stages productions he's directed include Spring Awakening, Our Town, Water by the Spoonful, and Appropriate.

Production Team Biographies

Liza Brown (Assistant Scenic Designer/Run Crew) is a junior theatre arts and architectural studies double major. Her previous Pitt Stages work includes "That's Not How I Remember It" (scenic designer) and "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" (dramaturg). She is also the Technical Director of Performance Collaborative, a Co-Technical Director of Redeye Theatre Project, and a Production Assistant in the Scene Shop. She is so grateful for everyone who supports live theatre at Pitt!

Talia Buonora (Stage Manager) is thrilled to present to you *The Inseparables*! Talia is a senior theatre arts and communication rhetoric major at Pitt and has been a part of numerous other Pittsburgh and Pitt Stages productions. Some previous credits include *Bandstand* (ASM, Front Porch Theatricals), *A... My Name is Still Alice* (ASM, Front Porch Theatricals), *Spring Awakening* (ASM & Deck Chief, Pitt Stages), and John Proctor is the Villain (SM, Pitt Stages).

Ricky Lyle (Puppet Designer) has been the Costume Shop Manger at Pitt Stages since fall of 2021 and four years prior as the Assistant Costume Shop Manger. He is excited to dust off the puppetry skills he acquired at West Virginia University where he graduated with a BFA in Creative Dramatics & Puppetry. His costume design work has most recently been seen in The End of Pride Spectacular and Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks' production of *Twelfth Night, Cleopatra & Antony*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

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Stefania Di Michele (Assistant Sound Designer) is excited to be designing her first Pitt Stages show. She is a theater arts and communications double major. She has previously designed "Brothers Grimm" and "That's Not How I Remember It." Aside from designing she also enjoys acting. Her previous credits include *Legally Blonde* (Elle Woods), *The Lightning Thief* (Clarisse), and *Abduction* (Moon).

Jared Donelson (Assistant Stage Manager and Deck Chief) is a sophomore theatre arts major with a certificate in leadership. Previous works include MTC's *Legally Blond* (Deck Crew), Pitt Stages' "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" (Light Board Operator), Performance Collaborative's *The Important of Being Earnest* (Assistant Stage Manager), and Pitt Stages' *Spring Awakening* (Assistant Stage Manager).

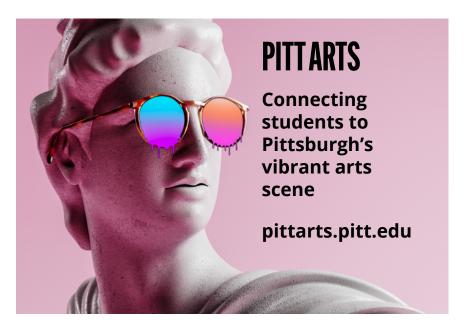
Colin Eccher (Assistant Lighting Designer) is elated to be lighting *The Inseparables*! Colin is a sophomore studying business analytics, marketing, and theatre arts. Select previous credits include Pitt Stages' "That's Not How I Remember It" (Assistant Stage Manager), *John Proctor is the Villain* (Deck Crew), and MTC's *The Lightning Thief* (Production Stage Manager). Colin will be working next on Pitt Stages' *Morning Reckoning* as Production Stage Manager in the spring.

Julia Ferranti (Assistant Stage Manager, Puppet Chief) is very excited to be backstage for this Pitt Stages production. Julia is a junior theatre arts major with a certificate in nonprofit management. Some of her other previous works include South Park Theatre's *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Assistant Stage Manager and Scenic Artist), and Pitt Stages' productions *Spring Awakening* (Assistant Scenic Charge Artist) and *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Scenic Artist).

Brittany Graham (Costume Designer) is a freelance costume, wig, and makeup designer, and Assistant Costume Shop Head here at Pitt. She most recently costume designed local independent films "Unsinkable" and "Basic Psych." Brittany is thrilled to be designing for Pitt Stages for the first time.

Jeremy Khan (Assistant Director) is an actor, teacher, and current MFA candidate in performance pedagogy. He has performed nationally in over 40 professional stage productions including world premieres, classical texts and musicals. His film/ TV work includes *Looking* (HBO), *Unleashed*, *Love is Love is Love, The Etruscan Smile* and *Dirt* in addition to many national and regional commercial spots. Jeremy has performed as a motion capture artist on several releases of NBA2K. He holds a BFA in acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University. Jeremy is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association and SAG-AFTRA.

Tonya Lynn (Fight & Intimacy Director) is a Pittsburghbased actor and theater instructor. She is a recognized Fight Director and Certified Teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors and has served as teaching faculty at their flagship National Stage Combat Workshop. In addition to her role at Pitt, she is an Adjunct Instructor at both Carnegie Mellon University and Point Park University. Her fight directing credits include over 150 productions. Tonya is a co-founder of Brawling Bard Theater and a founding member with New Re-naissance Theatre Company. She is the workshop coordinator for The Allegheny Alley Fight Stage Combat Workshop, and co-coordinates the upcoming Fight Director Training Workshop in Silver Spring, MD. www.eclecticmayhem.com.



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Natalie Mabry (Scenic Designer) is a trans-queer scenic & projections designer based in Pittsburgh. Natalie is the recipient of the 2024 KCACTF Award for Outstanding Projection Design for \approx [Almost Equal To] (Pittsburgh Playhouse), as well as two awards for excellence in stage design: The Bill and Gene Eckhart Award and The Taubman Scholarship. Natalie's recent design credits include for Andy Warhol's Tomato (Pittsburgh International Classical Theatre), Jet Fuel (Bishop Arts Theatre Company), Willy Wonka and Seussical (Gulfshore Playhouse), Jersey Boys (Flatrock Playhouse), The Perfect Mate (Pittsburgh CLO), A Christmas Story (Pittsburgh Public Theatre), The Rocky Horror Show (Dallas Theatre Center), and #UglyCry and When Jesus Divorced Me (Off The Wall Productions). Natalie is a proud member of the United Scenic Artists Stage Design Union (USA829).

Howard Patterson (Sound Designer/Mentor) is a Pittsburgh-based sound designer, audio engineer, and educator. Howard is the Assistant Teaching Professor of Sound Design at University of Pittsburgh. He has worked on many projects in and around Pittsburgh and is passionate about sonic storytelling. Recent designs have been heard at City Theatre Company, TheatreSquared, Quantum Theatre, and Pittsburgh Playhouse. He is the DTM Vice Chair at Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Region 2. Howard received his BFA from Point Park University. In his spare time not spent in the theater, he is a pro wrestler in- training.

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Ceili Schiller (Assistant Stage Manager, Weapons Chief) is ecstatic to take part in her first Pitt Stages production! Ceili is a Junior theatre arts major and recent transfer student. She has stage managed on *Oliver!*, *bobrauschenbergamerica*, *Love Sick*!, and *Once Upon A Mattress* (Assistant Stage Manager), with additional production credits on *Fun Home* and *Rabbit Hole*. Directing credits include *I and You*, and she has performed in *Hamlet* (Horatio) and *Sense and Sensibility* (Margaret Dashwood).

Isabel Sinnott (Lighting Designer) is a senior theatre arts major with a German minor. Recently, she has lighting designed MTC's *The Lightning Thief* as well as the Carnegie Mellon opera. She has interned the past two summers at X-Laser and designed various dance performances at Imagination Stage in Bethesda, Maryland. Recent Pitt Stages credits include *Spring Awakening* (Stage Manager), *John Proctor is the Villain* (Lighting Designer), and "That's Not How I Remember It" (Lighting Designer).



Lucia Troiano (Assistant Director) is thrilled to be assistant directing this Pitt Stages production. She is a senior theatre arts major, secondary education minor, working on a certificate in American Sign Language here at Pitt. She spent the past summer working as a teaching artist at Lexington Children's Theatre. Her other directing credits include *The Lightning Thief* (Director), *MTC Sings: Jekyll & Hyde* (Director), and *Legally Blonde* (Assistant Director). Pitt Stages credits include *Spring Awakening* (Assistant Music Director), *Dance Nation* (Run Crew), and *Emilia* (Actor/Musician). This coming spring you can find her directing *The Actor's Nightmare* in Pitt Stages one-act series.

Olivia Wick (Asssistant Director) is so excited to be working on the production team for the first time on *The Inseparables*! You may know her from being onstage in previous Pitt shows including *Emilia* (Margaet Johnson/Mary Sidney/Hester), *Dance Nation* (Maeve), *John Proctor is The Villain* (US-Shelby/US-Ivy), and *Spring Awakening* (Adult Woman). This semester she has shifted to working onstage to working backstage and has also been the Scenic/Props Designer In-Residence for the Musical Theatre Club at Pitt this semester, working on The Lightning Thief. She is so excited for everyone to see how hard this cast and crew has worked and hopes you enjoy the show!

Production Crew

Production Director
Jordan Kauffman PaintersRory Reilly, Claire Stemmer, Cade Teribery
Ellie Tongel, Ashley Wang, Rubie Yu
CarpentersXander Giaccone, Emma Hanan, Aidan Kelleher, Jun Kyoung Kim, Charlie Lovett-Dietrich,
Pranathi Munagala, Aeriana Olds, Aiden Wilt DressersDiana Craycroft, Andy Levin, Agate Riley
Cutter/Draper
StitchersClaire Stemmer, Chi Ejinaka, Gianna Healy,
Sammie Samuels, The students of the Costume Production & Technology class
Light Board OperatorCade Teribery
Sound Board OperatorLogan Reynolds
Sound SupervisorKyra Patenaude
Lighting/Sound ShopKrishna Amin, Miles Fraser, Claudia Shrager, Aeriana Olds, Haylee Anderson, Zihan Qin
Student Head Electrician
Stage CrewLiza Brown, Zach Sinclair

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With your help, we are able to showcase our students and faculty while building a future for theatre in our region. A contribution to the Department of Theatre Arts today ensures these programs will continue to enrich our cultural community. Thank you for supporting the arts!



About Pitt Stages

Pitt Stages is the in-house production company for the Department of Theatre Arts at the University of Pittsburgh, an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Theatre. The department believes in a philosophy of theatre education based on the integration of theory and practice, academic and creative work, and educational and professional theatre.

Faculty

Department Chair	Annmarie Duggan
Director of Graduate Studies	Michelle Granshaw
Director of Undergraduate Studies	Gianni P. Downs
Head of MFA in Performance Pedagogy	Cynthia Croot
Head of Design, Technology, and Management	KJ Gilmer
Head of History/Literature/Criticism	Michelle Granshaw
Head of Performance	Ricardo Vila-Roger
FacultyEve Bandi, Kathle	en George, Qianru Li,
Britton Mauk, Patrick McKelvey, Tom Pacio,	
Howard Patterson, Becki Toth, Kelly Trumbull	

Chosky Teaching Artist-in-Residence	Natalie Mabry
Richard E. Raugh Teaching Artist-in-Residence	Tonya Lynn

Professor Emeriti......W. Stephen Coleman, Don Mangone and Bruce McConachie

Administrative Staff

Arts Administrative Officer	Ashley Martin
Production Director	Hadley Armstrong
Academic Operation Manager	Lori Bollinger
Department Coordinator	Micky Krenek
Academic Administrator	Connie Markiw
Graduate Student Services Administrator	LJ Woolcock-Srolovic
Marketing and Outreach Manager	Daniel Fleegle
Patron and Rental Services Manager	Jeremy Seghers
Business Coordinator	Amanda Raczkowski

Production Staff

Technical Director	JC Bardzil
Assistant Technical Director	Abbie Wagner
Costume Shop Manager	Ricky Campbell
Costume Shop Assistant Manager	
Director of Lighting, Sound and Projections	

Save the date for spring productions

Morning Reckoning February 14–23, 2025 Richard E. Rauh Studio Theatre

It's the year 1999 and the Wayne, NJ chapter of the Morning Reckoning Fan Club meets to worship their favorite boy band and navigate the rough waters of the 8th grade experience. Tensions rise when the group's plans begin to go awry resulting in a devastating moment that changes the course of their lives forever. Cut to 20 years later, the members of the club, now grown up, find themselves together again to rekindle friendships, heal old wounds, and come to terms with one of the most formative experiences of their adolescence.

As You Like It April 4–13, 2025 Charity Randall Theatre

Forced from their homes, Orlando, Duke Senior, his daughter Rosalind and niece Celia escape to the Forest of Arden, a fantastical place of transformation, where all are welcomed and embraced. Lost amidst the trees, the refugees find community and acceptance under the stars. A musical adaptation of William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*

Tickets on sale January 6, 2025



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