

DOBAMA
THEATRE



SIGNIFICANT OTHER

APRIL 26—
MAY 19, 2024

WRITTEN BY:
Joshua Harmon

DIRECTED BY:
Colin Anderson

WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In recognizing the land upon which we reside, we express our gratitude and appreciation to those who lived and worked here before us; those whose stewardship and resilient spirit makes our residence possible on this traditional homeland of the Lenape (Delaware), Shawnee, Wyandot Miami, Ottawa, Potawatomi, and other Great Lakes tribes (Chippewa, Kickapoo, Wea, Pinakshaw, and Kaskaskia). We also acknowledge the thousands of Native Americans who now call Northeast Ohio home. Dobama Theatre and the greater Cleveland area occupy land officially ceded by 1100 chiefs and warriors signing the Treaty of Greenville in 1795.

SOLIDARITY STATEMENT

Dobama Theatre is committed to anti-racism action and a culture of authentic inclusivity. This effort is ongoing and will not end anytime soon. Our work is divided into three parts: The People, The Work, and The Process. The People come first, as they also do in our core values. We care for the whole person and create a larger, more equitable table for all to pursue our mission together. The Work are actions being taken to root out white supremacist, misogynistic, homophobic, transphobic, ableist, and other oppressive structures so that we might replace them with organizational tools built on consensus, transparency, and trust. The Process is how we will move forward in equitably representing and investing in the community we serve, and how we will continue to assess our progress, remain accountable, and determine further action in years to come.

For more information on these and other efforts, visit dobama.org/antiracism

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Our late twenties can be a difficult and confusing time of transition. At that age, we are firmly in adulthood but often don't feel all that grown-up. Perhaps most unsettlingly, for the first time in

our lives, there is not the built-in social circle that a school environment provides. We're now working in intergenerational environments while friends begin to move away, get married, have children, start families, or pursue diverse new interests and opportunities. It can be an uncertain and lonely time in our lives.

Due to stigma and discrimination, gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men carry a heightened burden of loneliness. According to a study by the National Institute of Health, 61% of gay men surveyed reported experiencing loneliness which resulted in episodes of depression and/or anxiety. Gay men are twice as likely to have a major depressive episode and are reported to have fewer close friends than straight people or gay women. Travis Salway, a researcher with the BC Centre for Disease Control in Vancouver, spent over five years studying suicide by gay men. "The defining feature of gay men used to be the loneliness of the closet," he said. "But now you've got millions of gay men who have come out of the closet and they still feel the same isolation."

In Joshua Harmon's fantastic new play SIGNIFICANT OTHER, Jordan is struggling to navigate this time of transition in his life, made more difficult as a gay man. He is looking for love and care while grieving the lost connections to his inner circle who have been a source of support to him in the past. As his closest friends, who all happen to be straight women, find love and get married one-by-one, Jordan's longing for connection overwhelms him.

All relationships evolve and change. People come and go as they play different roles in our lives. That is often a challenging thing to accept. For Jordan, his desperate need to have someone he can love and trust at this moment in his life is something we all can relate to as we root for him to find comfort and companionship.

This funny, beautiful, and heartfelt play closes our 23/24 season, fulfilling the theme of Family Found. We hope you are as excited as we are about our newly announced line-up of shows for next year and we look forward to welcoming you back to the theatre for another season of incredible productions. As always, thank you for your support of live, professional theatre, and for being a vital part of the Dobama family.

With Love and Respect,

Nathan Motta



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ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



COLIN ANDERSON (he/him) has spent his life in Cleveland, which he now calls his artistic home. He is proud to be openly gay and a fierce advocate for LGBTQ+ equity and access in the theatre industry and beyond. Directing credits include *The Thin Place*, *She Washed His Hands*, and various education programs (Dobama); *The Prom* (Near West Theatre); *Goodnight Tyler* (reading), *I'm Alive You Bastards* and *I Always Will Be* (Nightbloom Theatre Co); *The Inside Story* (Playwrights Local); *Beyond Therapy* (Access Theatre Project); *The Baltimore Waltz*, *Ordinary Days*, *For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls*, and *Next to Normal* (Oberlin College). Colin has also worked with Maelstrom Collaborative Arts, Cleveland Public Theatre, and the BorderLight International Theatre + Fringe Festival. BA: Oberlin College. colintyleranderson.com.



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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



JOSHUA HARMON Joshua Harmon's (he/him) plays include *Bad Jews*, *Significant Other*, *Admissions*, *Skintight*, and *Prayer for the French Republic*. He and Sarah Silverman co-wrote the libretto for *The Bedwetter* based on her memoir. His plays have been produced on Broadway and the West End; off-Broadway at Roundabout Theatre Company, Lincoln Center Theater, Manhattan Theater Club and Atlantic Theater Company; across the country at Geffen Playhouse, Speakeasy, Studio Theatre, Theater Wit, About Face, Actor's Express, and The Magic, among others; and internationally in a dozen countries. He is a two-time MacDowell fellow and an Associate Artist at Roundabout. Graduate of Juilliard.



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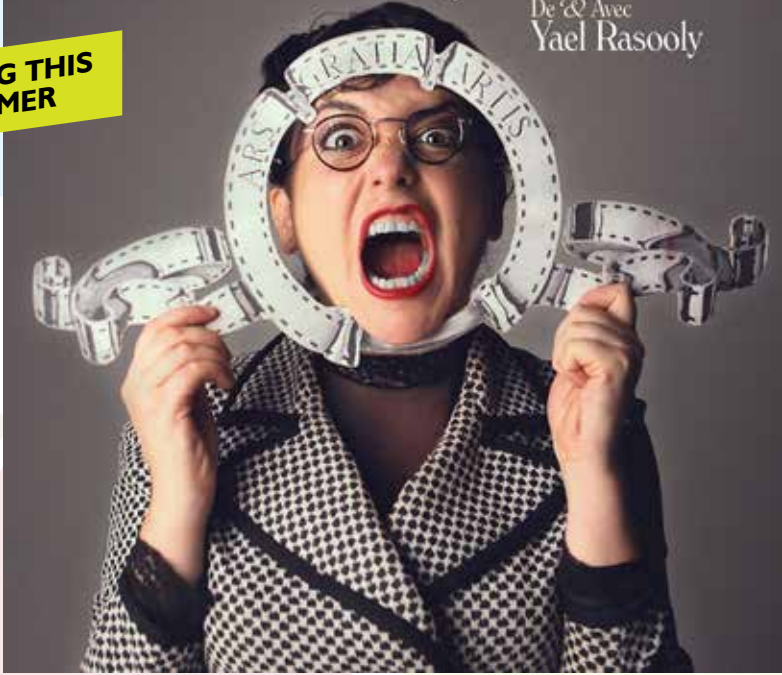
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DOBAMA THEATRE PROUDLY PRESENTS
the Regional Premiere of

SIGNIFICANT OTHER

BY JOSHUA HARMON

DIRECTED BY COLIN ANDERSON

APRIL 26-MAY 19, 2024

THE CAST

SCOTT ESPOSITO	JORDAN
KAT NASH	LAURA
MARY-FRANCIS MILLER	VANESSA
KAT SHY	KIKI
MICHAEL GLAVAN*	WILL/CONRAD/TONY
ADAM RAWLINGS	ZACH/EVAN/ROGER
CATHERINE ALBERS*	HELENE

SWINGS: MICHAEL J. MONTANUS, ROXANA BELL

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 49,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. actorsequity.org

THIS PLAY WILL BE PERFORMED WITH ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

Patrons who exit the theatre will only be allowed re-entry at the discretion of the Stage Manager.

SIGNIFICANT OTHER was developed during a residency at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center's National Playwrights Conference in 2013. Preston Whiteway, Executive Director; Wendy C. Goldberg, Artistic Director.

World Premiere Produced in New York City by Roundabout Theatre Company (Todd Haimes, Artistic Director; Harold Wolpert, Managing Director; Julia C. Levy, Executive Director; Sydney Beers, General Manager) at the Harold and Miriam Steinberg Center for Theatre / Laura Pels Theatre on June 18, 2015.

SIGNIFICANT OTHER is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

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Dobama Theatre is a proud member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.



PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR

Colin Anderson

SCENIC DESIGNER

Richard Morris, Jr.

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Adam Ditzel

SOUND DESIGNER

Jim Swonger

COSTUME DESIGNER

Suwatana Rockland

PROPS DESIGNER

Andy Zicari

INTIMACY DIRECTOR

Julia Fisher

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Jeremy Paul

STAGE MANAGER

Barbara Kozlov*

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Nathan Motta

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Léo Fernandez

ASSISTANT STAGE

MANAGER
Bea Shakow

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Cam Henderson

SCENIC PAINTER

Jamie Cohen-Kiraly

WARDROBE

Lady Jen Ryan

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Justine Schneider

RESIDENT STAGE MANAGER

Joel Rathbone*

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Kelsey Malone

Heather Pederson

Preston Roberts

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Jasmine A. Golphin

(Projections)

Cam Henderson (Stage
Management)

RADs (Resident Associates)

Lizzi Lucarell (Technical)

Emily Polcyn (Administration)

Maddie Schwartz

(Administration)

DOBAMA MISSION

Dobama Theatre is dedicated to premiering important new plays by established and emerging playwrights in professional productions of the highest quality. Through theatrical production, community engagement, and education programming, Dobama nurtures the development of theatre artists and builds new audiences for the arts while provoking an examination of our contemporary world.

CAST



SCOTT ESPOSITO
(JORDAN) (he/him) is excited to return to Dobama after last being seen in *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?* (Billy) in 2005. Recent credits include *Fun Home* (Bruce) at Cain Park; *Noises Off* (Fredrick/

Philip) and *Buyer & Cellar* (Alex) at Beck Center; and *Bach at Leipzig* (Schott) and *Our Country's Good* (Lt. Ralph Clark) with Seat of the Pants Productions. Other favorite credits include *Parade* (Leo Frank) at French Creek Theatre; *The Normal Heart* (Felix Turner) and both parts of *Angels in America* (Prior Walter) at Ensemble Theatre; *Assassins* (John Wilkes Booth) and *The Bridges of Madison County* (Bud Johnson) at Lakeland Civic Theatre; *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (Molina), *12 Angry Men* (Juror #8); *Hair* (Claude); and *Avenue Q* (Rod) at Blank Canvas Theatre; *Lend Me a Tenor* (Max), *Mothers and Sons* (Will Ogden), and *Jeffrey* (Jeffrey) at Beck Center; and *Godspell* (John the Baptist/Judas) and *Ragtime* (Tateh) at Cain Park. Scott is a member of the acting ensemble with Seat of the Pants Productions, and would like to thank Nathan and Colin for this opportunity and his husband Vince for his constant love and support.



MARY-FRANCIS MILLER
(VANESSA) (she/her) is an actor, vocalist, musician, and proud Cleveland native. She was a member of the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus and Chamber Chorus. Performance

credits include the Karamu House production of *Elton John* and Tim Rice's *Aida*, the Cleveland Public Theatre productions of *Fire on the Water* and the world premiere of *Panther Women* as actor and music director, the Ohio premiere of *Sunset Baby* at Dobama Theatre, the Cleveland premiere of *Skeleton Crew* also at Dobama, the Karamu House productions of *Black Nativity*, *Passing Strange*, *Simply Simone* and the American premiere of *The Adventures of the Black Girl in Her Search for God*. And most recently, she played the role of Paradise in the Near West Theatre production of *BKLYN The Musical*. Mary-Francis also starred in an educational web series in collaboration with PNC and The Cleveland Orchestra entitled Music Explorers. Film credits include *The Emancipation of Miss Millie*, *Black Hiding Place*, and *Figure It Out*.

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Laura Anderson



KAT SHY

(KIKI) (she/her) is extremely pleased to be joining such a stellar cast in her return to Dobama Theatre in this season's production of *Significant Other*. This is her third show at Dobama, having

previously appeared as Jenny in *John* and as Amanda in *4000 Miles* in 2012. She later reprised the role of Amanda in Weatherlane Playhouse's production of the same title. Kat is also a company member at convergence-continuum in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood and has appeared on the con-con stage several times, most notably as Sarah in *A Map of Virtue*. She also stage managed their production of *Terminus*. Most recently, she completed an Actor/Teacher residency with the Illusion Factory in Akron. There, she appeared as Ariel in an adaptation

of *The Little Mermaid* and taught workshops for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. As a graduate of Cleveland State University's theater studies program, Kat would like to thank all her mentors in the Cleveland arts community for their guiding hands in her acting career. Many thanks, as well, to her friends and family for their unwavering support.



KATHERINE NASH

(LAURA) (she/her) is excited to be back at Dobama for this production! She is a performer and artist based in Cleveland, Ohio. A graduate of Indiana University, she holds a BA in Theatre

and Drama with a focus in acting. Recent acting credits include: *The Temptation of Adam* (Cleveland Public Theatre), *Make*

PLAYWRIGHTS' GYM

WHAT IS THE PLAYWRIGHTS' GYM?

The Playwrights' GYM is Dobama Theatre's playwrights' unit. The GYM is a program that provides local playwrights with the opportunity to workshop new work. GYM playwrights are area professionals who are given various resources to help further their work, including rehearsal space, collaboration with a director to assist the playwright, marketing and public events supported by the theatre. The GYM's goal is to nurture new work in a safe environment.

THE GYM HAS TWO PARTS

Full-length Readings: lightly staged readings of full plays are conducted in the theatre or in Dobama's 2nd Floor Arts Space. These are scheduled throughout the season.

GYM Shorts: a showcase of new short works or excerpts from full-length plays by GYM playwrights are read in an annual event usually in January or February.

THE PLAYWRIGHTS

Stuart Hoffman
Meredith L. King

Lisa Langford
Avery LaMar Pope
Claire Robinson May

Eric Schmiedl
Amy Schwabauer
Logan Cutler Smith

Greg Vovos
Rachel Zake

For more information, visit dobama.org.

Believe (Dobama Theatre), 2023 Marilyn Bianchi Kid's Playwriting Festival (Dobama Theatre), *After The Blast* (Convergence-Continuum), and the various iterations of *Bedroom Culture* (Cleveland Public Theatre). Katherine would like to express much love and gratitude towards her friends and family.



MIKE GLAVAN*
(WILL/CONRAD/TONY)
(he/him) is an actor, director, and teaching artist in the Cleveland area. Michael was last at Dobama in their RAD program, assistant director of *The Other Place*, Kidsfest, and

as D Vicious in *Airness!* He is an Ensemble Member of Seat of the Pants, the Artistic Associate at Cleveland Play House, and a member of the Green House Artist Collective. NY Theatre: *Joey and Ron*, *Three Sisters*, *Macbeth: Two Truths*, *Ultimate Man! The Musical*, *Sex Tips...from a Gay Man*, *American Hero*, *Ethel*, *Something I Should Tell You*, *Red*, *1776*, *Camelot*, and a series of smaller performance pieces at The Tank NYC as part of the Fast and Furious Series. OH Theatre: Seat of the Pants, Porthouse, Rubber City, Blank Canvas, Canton Players Guild, and Near West Theatre. TV: Ohio Lotto, *Shahs of Sunset*, *Watch What Happens Live with Andy Cohen*. IG: @mglavan425.



ADAM RAWLINGS
(ZACH/EVAN/ROGER)
(he/they) is grateful to be back on the Dobama stage with this show! Previously this season, he was a part of *At The Wake Of A Dead Drag Queen* (u/s Vickie/Hunter). He has been

lucky to work at Cedar Point, Near West Theatre, Cain Park, French Creek, and Deaf West Theatre. His other favorite credits include *Sondheim on Sondheim* (u/s Man 1 & 2), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Robert Martin), *Spring Awakening* (Hanschen), and *A Year with Frog And Toad* (Man Bird). Follow him

on Instagram @adamerawlings for future updates. He would like to thank his brother/roommate Paul for giving endless love and support. U=U



CATHERINE ALBERS*
(HELENE) (she/her) is a professional actress and emeritus professor in the Department of Theater at Case Western Reserve University. She is a member of Actors' Equity Association, SAG/AFTRA, and has

performed on many local stages as well as professional theaters throughout the country. Catherine has performed in roles as diverse as Dr. Vivian Bearing in the Dobama Theater production of *Wit* and Clariee in *Steel Magnolias* at Porthouse Theatre. She was last seen on Dobama's stage in *John*. Catherine is a certified teacher of the Michael Chekhov Acting Technique and is the President of the



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MICHAEL J. MONTANUS

(SWING) (he/him) is a professional actor, stage manager, and tall guy for hire who recently moved to Cleveland from Boise, Idaho, where he earned his BA in Theatre Arts from Boise State

University. While having worked closely with theaters like the Cleveland Shakespeare Festival, Convergence-continuum, and Spark Theatre 4 Youth, Michael is thrilled to be working with Dobama Theatre for their production of *Significant Other*. He is also relieved his stint as a seven-year-old twin who could control the weather in the 45th Annual Marilyn Bianchi Kids' Playwriting Festival did not affect his type casting. Thank you Mom for

always being my number one fan. "I'll love you forever, I'll like you for always. As long as I'm living, my mother you'll be."



ROXANA BELL

(SWING) (she/her) is thrilled to be making her Dobama Theatre debut with *Significant Other*. Most recently, Roxana was seen as "Figure" in Tania Benitez's *Alter* at Cleveland Public Theatre (Test Flight) and

as "Cinderella" in *Into the Woods* (Spotlights). Prior to COVID, she appeared as an ensemble member of *Ragtime* at Spotlights and in the devised theater piece, *Central Concern*, at Cleveland Public Theatre. Some other favorite credits include: *Stellaluna and Other Tales* (Stellaluna), *Man of La Mancha* (Antonia), *Macbeth* (Banquo), and *Akarui* (Ensemble). By day, Roxana is a licensed social worker working in statewide social service program implementation.

DOBAMA EMERGING ACTORS PROGRAM (DEAP)

JULY 2024



For more information, visit dobama.org.

Now in its 14th season, DEAP is the only summer intensive program in the region that is focused on technique-based training for a small ensemble of high school and college students. Serious young actors receive training in Meisner, Laban, Michael Chekhov, and Alexander Technique. Emerging professionals receive mentorship in the areas of design, stage management, and directing. The program culminates with a blackbox production of a heightened text play.

PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR

COLIN ANDERSON
(see About the Director)

SCENIC DESIGNER

RICHARD MORRIS, JR.
(he/him) is a Cleveland, Ohio based Scenic and Lighting Designer. Recent designs include, *Stew, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park*, *The Wedding Band*, *Stratford Festival*, *Wine in the Wilderness*, *Two River Theatre*, and *Two Train Running*, Pittsburgh Public Theatre. Mr. Morris has designed Scenery for over 160 Productions, and was the recipient of the National Black Theatre Festivals award for

“Outstanding Achievements in Scenic Design”. In 2013 Mr. Morris was Keynote Speaker at Alabama State University on African Americans In Scenic Design, He also owns a company “Second Soul” that specializes in 3d Character Design and Animation. He is currently Technical Director/Resident Scenic Designer for Weathervane Playhouse in Akron Ohio. Mr. Morris holds a B.A. in Scenic and Lighting Design from Kent State University.

LIGHTING DESIGNER

ADAM DITZEL
(he/him) is a Cleveland based lighting designer and programmer. His first design for Obama



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VISIT PAGE
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was last season's *What We Look Like*. Recent theatre credits include designs for Karamu House, Cain Park, Beck Center, Near West Theatre, Cleveland Playhouse/Case Western Reserve MFA Acting, Magical Theatre Company, Lakeland Civic Theatre, and Heidelberg University. Recent dance credits include designs for Ohio Contemporary Ballet, Cleveland Ballet, Inlet Dance, and Ballet Theatre of Ohio. He also works as lighting director for the instrumental progressive metal band, Animals As Leaders. He holds a degree in Lighting Design & Technology from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM).

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

JEREMY PAUL

(he/him) is a director, designer, and interdisciplinary artist. As the founder and Executive Artistic Director of Maelstrom Collaborative Arts since 2006, Jeremy has led the creation of the original productions *Four Futures*, *The Wandering*, *Inferno*, *Who We Used To Be*, *Don't Wander Off*, *Broken Codes*, *The Turing Machine*, *The Grand Celebration of the Celestial Mystery*, *TingleTangle*, *Code: Preludes*, *The Excavation*, and *Marble Cities*. He has directed the world premieres of *Tall Skinny Cruel Cruel Boys*, *Black Cat Lost*, and *My Barking Dog*, as well as the regional premiere of *Inoculations*, *Anna Bella Eema*, and *Stranded on Earth*. He recently joined Cleveland Institute of Music as the inaugural Interdisciplinary Artist in Residence.

SOUND DESIGNER

JIM SWONGER

(he/him) has been a sound designer for the Cleveland area since 2004, designing for Cleveland Play House, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Opera, Cleveland State University, and various other projects. He has designed for various theaters across the country including Yale Repertory Theater, George Street Playhouse, Pioneer Theater Company, Center Stage in Baltimore, and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. He has designed the world premieres of various shows including *why i had to dance* by Ntozake Shange, *The Tragic Demise of the Whaleship Essex* by Timothy J. Ray and *Swinging on a Star: A Tribute to the Music of Johnny Burke* by Michael Leeds. He has also taught Sound Design and Engineering at the University of Utah and Cleveland State University, as well as various seminars on Sound Design.

COSTUME DESIGNER

SUWATANA ROCKLAND (PLA)

(she/her) is currently resident costume designer, professor, and costume shop supervisor at The College of Wooster. Suwatana is originally from Thailand. She is a former professional dancer, actress, director, choreographer, and designer. Suwatana has worked on industrial, commercial, television, and stage productions. Before moving to Ohio, she worked in Thailand, Colorado, and Arizona. In addition to her full-time employment, she finds time to freelance as a costume designer and guest lecturer for universities and theatres in the US and Thailand. She holds an MFA in Costume Design

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and Tech from Kent State University and is a member of USITT. Her professional credits in Ohio have included Dobama Theatre, Kent State, The Players Guild Theatre, Porthouse Theatre, Beck Center for the Arts, The Ohio Light Opera, and the Case Western Reserve University-Cleveland Play House MFA program. parocklanddesign.com

PROPS DESIGNER

ANDY ZICARI

(he/him) is a proud Cleveland Heights native and graduate of Oberlin College & Conservatory. He enjoys managing stages for schools and theatres across Greater Cleveland, from the Borderlight Fringe Festival in Playhouse Square to Talespinner Children's Theatre in the Gordon Square district. He is excited and grateful to join the wonderful folk at Dobama for several shows this season: *At the Wake...*, *Something Clean*, and *Significant Other*. Andy sends thanks to his parents, his ever-loving partner, and especially his kitten

Alfalfa, who welcomes him home even when he returns from rehearsal very late.

INTIMACY DIRECTOR

JULIA FISHER

(she/her) is an intimacy director and playwright whose work has been seen in professional theatres throughout Northeast Ohio. She is a Certified Intimacy Director through Intimacy Directors and Coordinators, where she also served as a Teaching Artist and Curriculum Developer. She is thrilled to work on her first mainstage show at Dobama (where she has been involved in Kids Fest for many years), and she has intimacy directed over 30 productions - at Rubber City Theatre, Cain Park, Ensemble Theatre, convergence-continuum, Ohio Shakespeare Festival, Cleveland Public Theatre's Test Flight, LatinUs Theater, Broadview Heights Spotlights, the University of Akron, and Ohio Northern University. www.juliachristinefisher.com

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STAGE MANAGER

BARBARA KOZLOV*

(she/her) is thrilled to work with some of her favorite folks at Dobama once again. Her previous SM credits include the following: the world premiere of *The Baron of Brown Street* (RCT), *Anything Goes* (RCT), the world premiere of *What We Look Like* (Dobama), *Concord Floral* (UoA), and *BKLYN: The Musical* (Porthouse). She strives to make people smile both through the theatrical arts and in her studies as a dental hygienist. Barbara gives thanks to her family who have always supported her dreams and Viewers Like You.

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

BEA SHAKOW

(she/her) is a budding professional stage manager and a graduate of Case Western Reserve University, where she majored in theatre. She has experience as a stage manager, having worked on productions such as *Arcadia* (CWRU), *Spring Awakening: A*

Children's Tragedy (Dobama), and *Alice Tierney* (Oberlin College). She is very happy to be working with Dobama again!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

CAM HENDERSON

(she/her) is "Just Another Kid" from Akron, OH dedicating her time to filmmaking, producing, and working in theatre. Her works include the Akron Civic Theater's *Pride and Prejudice*, Cleveland Playhouse's *Thurgood*, Dobama Theatre's *Little Women*, and the Ohio Shakespeare Festival's *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*. Digital works include the "Nelccia- Options" music video and many more. A former host of the 88.1 WRFL Lexington radio show "King's Corner", she also has directed a number of marketing campaigns for various organizations and companies throughout Northeast Ohio and Northern Kentucky. The University of Kentucky alum can also be found working on other projects such as short films. Cash A Million Studios is taking over!

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SCENIC PAINTER

JAMIE COHEN-KIRALY

(she/her) is a contemporary artist in Cleveland. She graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Art in 2020 and has continued her career as a professional artist in the form of theatre, tattooing, murals, and other painting projects. As a former Dobama Theatre RAD, she is now working on many shows behind the scenes, building and painting productions around the Cleveland area.

WARDROBE

LADY JEN RYAN

(she/her) is beyond thrilled to return to Dobama. She has performed and worked from behind the curtain for over three decades. Lady Jen majored in vocal performance and minored in musical theatre at Bowling Green State University. She is an operatically trained vocalist, a fully licensed cosmetologist, an experienced makeup artist, a proficient stylist, a skilled dresser, and a distinguished costume designer. Select design credits include *Addams Family*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Chess*, *Frankenstein 1930*, *Hair*, *Rocky Horror Show*, the Cleveland Premiere of *The Snow Queen*, *Spring Awakening*, *The Mystery of*

Edwin Drood, *Xanadu*. Select performances include *Applause*, *Cabaret*, *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Nine*, *Rocky Horror Show*, *Scrooge!* *Victor Victoria*, *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*. Lady Jen would like to acknowledge her support system and theatre muses. LG, KJK, RB, RGS – TPOG - Special Thanks to Ms. Walker, My Beast, My Boo, My Jellyfish, My King – only you.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

LÉO FERNANDEZ

(they/them) is a local theatre artist and former student of Dobama's Emerging Actors Program (DEAP). They are currently enrolled at Cleveland State University to receive a BA in Theatre Arts and are employed as the Tech Director at convergence-continuum. Previous credits include: Director of *Cemetery Calling* (NEOMFA Playwriting Festival); Stage Manager of *Ken Hill's The Phantom of the Opera* (CSU); Stage Manager of *The Mousetrap* (Weathervane); Bill & Mark in *All in the Timing* (Tri-C West); and Son-types in *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom* (con-con). Thank you for supporting live theatre.

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DOBAMA STAFF

NATHAN MOTTA

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

(he/him), is the 5th Artistic Director at Dobama Theatre, where he spurred Dobama's move to become an Equity Theatre. Select directing credits at Dobama include: *An Octoroon* (Best Director - Cleveland Critics Circle 2016), *The Flick* (Best Director - Cleveland Critics Circle 2017), *Stupid F**king Bird* (Best Director - Cleveland Critics Circle 2019), *Make Believe*, *Life Sucks*, *Appropriate*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Superior Donuts*, *A Bright New Boise*, *The Aliens*, *A Civil War Christmas*, *Marie Antoinette*, *John*, and the World Premieres of *How to Be A Respectable Junkie* and *The Land of Oz*. A professional director, conductor, and composer/lyricist, he has worked with Cleveland Play House, Great Lakes Theater, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Baldwin Wallace University, Oberlin College, Cleveland State University, John Carroll University, Cleveland Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Opera Cleveland, Ohio Light Opera, Cain Park, Mercury Opera Rochester, and Civic Light Opera (Pittsburgh). Original musicals include *The Land of Oz* (composer; book and lyrics by George Brant), *Midsummer*, and *Little White Gloves*. Motta is a leader in equity, diversity, and inclusion work and a fierce advocate for safety and wellness practices for the theatre. He holds a B.F.A. from Carnegie Mellon University and an M.M. from the Eastman School of Music. Member Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), the national theatrical union that unites, empowers, and protects professional stage directors and choreographers throughout the United States.

COLIN ANDERSON

DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION

(see About the Director)

MARIAH BURKS

DIRECTOR OF ENGAGEMENT

(she/her) is a Cleveland, OH, native. Her work has mainly been seen at Cleveland Play House, where she was most recently set to play the titular role of Antigone pre-pandemic. Other credits include: *Little Women*, *Airness* (Dobama); *Breakfast at the Bookstore* (Karamu



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House); *Clue: A New Comedy* (The Cook); *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Logainne). An alumna of the CWRU/CPH MFA Acting Program and a graduate of Bowling Green State University's Musical Theatre program, Mariah was the recipient of the National Irene Ryan Acting Award at the Kennedy Center (ACTF) in Washington, DC. Other regional and local theatre work includes *Caroline, or Change* (Tantrum Theatre) and *RAGTIME* (Cain Park). Instagram: @magical_mariahb

LENA CHAPIN

DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

(she/her) is a lifetime theatre-goer and has been a Dobama Member since 2021. She comes to the role of Director of Advancement with over ten years of fundraising, networking, and development communications experience. Previously, Lena worked as the Director of Development at EDWINS Leadership Restaurant Institute, the Ignatian Solidarity Network, and

Rose-Mary Center. Lena enjoys trail running, a good karaoke session, building relationships, and writing "thank you" notes. Please give at dobama.org/donate and allow her to write some more!

ERIN DOLAN

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

(she/her) is an Actor, Director, Educator, Playwright, and Poet based in Northeast Ohio. Originally from western Massachusetts, Erin spent her later childhood in Lorain County. She studied theatre at Kent State University and Lorain County Community College, where she first discovered her great love for including children in the creative process. Her path led her to Houston, Texas, and later to Columbus and Akron, Ohio, where she focused solely on her work in Early Childhood Education for several years. In 2017, Erin returned to Cleveland to rejoin the exciting and dynamic arts community here. Erin has over twenty years of experience as a classroom educator, the last

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eight of which included administration. She is the co-founder of Awesome Possum Theatre Company as well as Stratosphere, a performing arts collective. Erin was most recently heard onstage as the voice of Val Fuego in *Web of Deceit* (Stratosphere/BorderLight Festival), an illustrated radio play. Recent directing credits include *James and the Giant Peach* (LCCC/Spark Theatre 4 Youth collaboration), *Cupid & Psyche* (Stratosphere), *Burst of Thought* (Cleveland Public Theatre's Pandemonium). Also a playwright, Erin has been commissioned to adapt children's classics for The Illusion Factory in Akron, Talespinner Children's Theatre in Cleveland and, most recently, Spark Theatre 4 Youth in Elyria, Ohio. Erin is a proud and vocal advocate for artists and educators. She strives to nurture in all children, artists, and audiences an enthusiasm for learning and an appreciation for their own imaginations.

ELISE KUKLINCA
CONNECTIVITY DIRECTOR
(she/they) began working at Dobama in 2015 in the box office before transitioning to the Patron Services Manager in 2018. In 2021, Elise became Connectivity Director, a role that encompasses fostering internal communication, connecting with artists, working with volunteers, and building deeper relationships with the greater community. Previously, Elise could be found in a myriad of places including La Jolla Playhouse, Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati, The Carnegie and Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis.

AMY LWEAVER
BUSINESS DIRECTOR
(she/her) came to Cleveland from the Washington, D.C. metro area, fell in love with the arts community here, and never left. Amy began her professional career as the inaugural house Stage Manager at the Maltz Performing Arts Center at Case Western Reserve University

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before spending several years with progressive administrative responsibilities at Cleveland Public Theatre, concluding as their Finance Manager. Her theatre production credits include sound design and stage management roles with Cleveland Public Theatre, the CWRU Footlighters, Players' Theatre Group, Wildwood Summer Theatre, and Damascus Theatre Company. Outside of her theatre operations, finance, and development work, Amy enjoys restoring old houses, skiing, and baking..

CARRIE WILLIAMS
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

(she/they) is a performer, director, scenic artist, and a fierce arts education advocate. After earning a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Bowling Green State University, she

moved to Cleveland to join Great Lakes Theater's acclaimed School Residency Program as an Actor-Teacher. She has taught and created programming for a multitude of organizations, including Playhouse Square, Ensemble Theatre, French Creek Theatre, Brecksville Theatre on the Square, Fairmount Center for the Arts, Hawken School, and Talespinner Children's Theatre. Her artistic pedagogy focuses on exploring collaborative processes, fostering creativity, and empowering youth to step outside their comfort zones. Here she coordinates the Marilyn Bianchi Kids' Playwriting Festival, the longest-running celebration of young playwrights in the United States.

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