

Northwestern | WIRTZ CENTER

A stack of old, worn books is visible on the right side of the image. The books have thick, aged pages and some have damaged spines. In the foreground, a large, vibrant red ink splatter is centered, with smaller droplets scattered around it. The background is a dark, textured green.

PEERLESS

FEBRUARY 18-20, 2022

Northwestern University's
Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts
proudly presents

PEERLESS

By Jiehae Park

Director

JI WON JEON

Production Stage Manager
VIA GREENE

Stage Manager
ASHTON GOREN

Sound Design
DANIEL ETTI-WILLIAMS

Assistant Directors
ZACH FORBES
RACHEL HILBERT

Lighting Design
YUN LIN

Costume Design
NORA MARLOW SMITH

Set Design
JOSEPH JOHNSON

Northwestern
arts circle
The Arts Together



NAMT
NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR
MUSICAL THEATRE

Northwestern
SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

The Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts is a member of
Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for
the American Theatre.

Program Editor: Yui Ginther and Kelly Levander

Northwestern University
Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts
10 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, IL 60208
Box Office Phone: 847-491-7282
wirtz.northwestern.edu

Peerless is approximately 90 minutes long, no intermission

Audience content warning: Fog/haze, smoking, strong language and disturbing content, loud and potentially disturbing sounds, adult language and slurs, racism, ableism, fatphobia, antisemitism, violence and murder, death, racial caricatures and gunshot.

COVID-19 GUIDELINES: The Wirtz Center complies with COVID-19 guidelines by Northwestern University, as well as local, state and federal governments. For more information, [please visit Northwestern University's Covid-19 site.](#)

We are on sacred ground. Northwestern University is on the traditional homelands of the people of the Council of Three Fires—the Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa—as well as the Menominee, Miami, and Ho-Chunk nations. Before it was stolen from them through colonization and forced removal, this land was a site of trade, travel, gathering, and healing for more than a dozen other native tribes. The state of Illinois is still home to more than 100,000 tribal members. In the spirit of healing and making amends for the harm that was done, we acknowledge the native and indigenous peoples who called this land home. And we pledge ourselves as members of the Northwestern School of Communication to turn our statements into action and build better relationships with native and indigenous communities in Evanston, in Chicago, and throughout the region.

SETTING: MIDWEST SUBURBIA, HIGH SCHOOL

SCENES

1. Mail
2. Dirty Girl
3. Early Decision
4. Detention
- a. Stats (Class)
6. Voicemail
7. Track
8. Hoopcoming
9. Basement
10. Prep
11. After

12. Mail
13. Early Decision (Round 2)
14. Crack
15. Consultation
16. Track (2)
17. Switch
18. Later
19. Morning
20. V
21. The Future

SPECIAL THANKS

Jessica Thebus, Barbara Butts, Hannah Clark, Ben Kress, Mark Berry, Max Grano de Oro, Avi Sheehan, Soejung Jang, Marcus Doshi, Eric Southern, Marina Arconti, Jim Weber, Chris Wych, Matthew Buettner, and all of the shop staff.

CAST

Kate Compton..... Dirty Girl
Rick Hilscher..... D
Mi Kang..... L
Shannon Liu..... M and L Understudy
Gavin Shaub..... D Understudy
Elliot Sims..... BF
Arianna Staton..... Dirty Girl Understudy
Emily Zhang..... M

PRODUCTION TEAM

Ji Won Jeon..... Director
Rachel Hilbert..... Assistant Director
Zach Forbes..... Assistant Director
Joe Johnson..... Set Designer
Nora Marlow Smith..... Costume Designer
Ben Kress..... Assistant Costume Designer
Yun Lin..... Lighting Designer
Daniel Etti-Williams..... Sound Designer
Via Greene..... Production Stage Manager
Ashton Goren..... Stage Manager
Jyreika Guest..... Intimacy Choreographer
Micah Figueroa..... Fight Choreographer

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FEB 24-MAR 6, 2022

COMPANY BIOS

KATE COMPTON (she/her/hers) is in the second year of the MFA Acting Program at Northwestern. Before joining the program, she lived in Los Angeles doing film, TV, and commercial work. She earned her BFA in Acting from Michigan State University. She's also an improviser who has studied with The Second City and Groundlings. She's a founding member of the creative collective, Tuesday Night Films, where she works with some of her favorite people on the planet.

RICK HILSCHER (he/him/his) is a senior theatre and economics double major from Boothbay Harbor, Maine. Previous Northwestern credits include *The Secret in the Wings*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and *Polaroid Stories*. Rick is currently the president of Vertigo Productions and is an ensemble member of TBD, a Neo-Futurist-inspired performance group. Special thanks to the faculty, friends, and family who have supported Rick to this point.

MI KANG (she/her/hers) is a 3rd year Master's in Fine Arts acting student who has worked on *The Phantom Tollbooth*, *Hedda Gabler* and *The Lover* at Northwestern. She was previously based in Seattle where credits include: *John* (ArtsWest Playhouse), *The Journal of Ben Uchida* (Seattle Children's Theatre), and *A Tale for Time Being* (Book-It Repertory Theatre). Mi received her Bachelor's in Business Administration from The University of Texas at Austin and is represented by Stewart Talent.

SHANNON LIU (she/her/hers) is a sophomore from Hong Kong and Singapore. She studies Psychology, International Studies, and Creative Writing. She would like to give a special shout-out for Rachel and Zach, the amazing assistant directors, as well as Gavin and Ari, two wonderful actors.

GAVIN SHAUB (he/him/his) is first-year theatre major from New York with 9+ years of stage experience, and education from the Stella Adler Studio of Acting. His recent work includes Max in *Pocatello*, Wadsworth in *Clue*, and The Balladeer/LHO in *Assassins*. He would like to thank his family for their continued support, his friends for their encouragement, and Ji Won for the opportunity to work on such a compelling show with such amazing actors!

ELLIOT SIMS (he/him/his) is a Dallas, TX native actor, screenwriter, playwright, producer, and filmmaker. He graduated from the University of North Texas where he received his Bachelors of Art in Theatre. Elliot currently resides in Chicago, IL where he attends Northwestern University in pursuit of his Masters of Fine Arts degree in Acting by the year of 2023.

ARIANNA STATON (she/they/he) is a 4th year Theatre and International Studies double major with a Film & Media Studies minor. They were last seen onstage in Spectrum Theatre Company's "Littlespace, or the Daddy Play" and will be in the upcoming Wirtz production of "Men on Boats" in the Spring. Endless love and gratitude to the cast and team!

EMILY ZHANG (she/her/hers) is a senior double majoring in theatre and psychology! Most recently, she was seen as Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*, Hecuba in *The Trojan Women*, as well as in *Hedda Gabler*, *Never Not Once*, and *Cry It Out*. On campus, she is Co-President of playback troupe Playing With Fire and NSTV actor. Many thanks to the cast and team - she would kill to work with them again!

VIA GREENE (she/her/hers) is a junior studying Theatre Management and Global Health. Her previous Wirtz credits include *Legally Blonde* (ASM), *Tomás and the Library Lady* (SM), and *What Did I Miss?* (SM). Professional credits include Chicago Immersive's *WANDER: Lincoln Square* (ASM) and Possibilities Theatre Company's *Rent* (Showcaller). StuCo credits include *Joni: Busy Being Free* (SM) and Arts Alliance's *Mamma Mia!* (SM). Off headset, she is Executive Director of Lovers & Madmen. Thanks to Dan, Angelo, Barbara and Mark!

DANIEL ETTI-WILLIAMS (he/him/they/them) is an Audio Engineer and Sound Designer living in Chicago. After apprenticing with Steppenwolf Theatre Company he's gone on to design and work with other companies around Chicago including Strawdog, Chicago Children's Theatre and Theatre Evolve and many more to come.

JOSEPH JOHNSON (he/him/his) is currently in his final year at Northwestern in pursuit of a M.F.A in Scenic Design. Past productions at

Northwestern include *Legally Blonde* and *The Glass Menagerie*. Joe's work for a theoretical design of Karel Capek's *The White Plague* was part of an international online gallery through the Prague Quadrennial Common Design Project in Winter 2021. www.joethomasjohnson.com

NORA MARLOW-SMITH (she/her/hers) is delighted to make her costume design debut at Northwestern with this incredible team and exciting play. Nora will complete her MFA in Stage and Costume Design and her Teaching Certificate from the Searle Center in June 2022. Nora completed her BA in Set Design and English Literature from Mount Holyoke College in 2012. Past Wirtz set design credits include *In His Hands*, *Last Stop on Market St*, *Fun Home*,

The Flight of the Phoenix, *The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World*, and *Danceworks 2020*. Past professional credits include *Grand Rounds* at LaMama Experimental Theater Club, *Wake...Sing* at IRT NYC, and *Antigone* at Amherst College. Keep an eye out for more work from Nora this spring on the Wirtz production of *Water By The Spoonful* by Quiara Hudes directed by Ji Won Jeon. To see more exciting work, visit www.noramarlowsmith.com

YUN LIN (she/her/hers) is from Shanghai, China, and has lived and studied in three countries including, China, the UK and the US. Yun studied Engineering during her undergraduate at Purdue University and decided to pursue Stage Lighting Design at Northwestern for her Master's degree. Her design credits at the Wirtz Center include, *Torque* in *Danceworks 2020*, and *Last Stop on Market Street*. Her upcoming designs at Northwestern include *Late: A Cowboy Song*

JIWON JEON (she/her/hers) is a theatre director from South Korea working internationally. She believes in the power of theatre and storytelling to jumpstart conversations that challenge and move us outside our comfort zones. She thinks that the stories we tell about ourselves are formative of who we become as individual, community and society. Her work is therefore centered around the idea of bringing individual and collective cultural history that makes us who we are today and allows us to move forward. She holds BA degree in Theatre and Visual and Performing Arts Studies from University of Southern California and is currently in her third year of MFA in Directing program at Northwestern University. She directed and produced plays and musicals with many independent Korean theatre production companies and participated in multiple international theatre festivals held in South Korea. Previously at Northwestern, she directed *Buried Child* by Sam Shepard, and her other favorite directing credit includes *Polaroid Stories*, *Armstrong's Moon*, *Ubu Roi Project*, *The History Boys*, *No Exit*, and *Pillowman*.

Contact: directorjj27@gmail.com

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LATE, A COWBOY SONG



APR 22-24, 2022

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We thank our donors who make it possible to develop and sustain the quality of productions at Northwestern University. The following individuals and institutions have made gifts to one or more of the following areas: the Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts, American Music Theatre Project, and the Music Theatre Funds. All gifts were made between September 1, 2020 and August 31, 2021.

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