

Northwestern | WIRTZ CENTER



**SOMETHING  
ROTTEN!**



**FEBRUARY 10-20, 2022**

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

proudly presents

# SOMETHING ROTTEN!

Book by John O'Farrell and Karey Kirkpatrick  
Music and lyrics by Karey and Wayne Kirkpatrick

Director  
RORY PELSUE

Assistant Director  
SAMARA MALIK

Production Stage Manager  
ANUSHKA AGARWALA

Assistant Director  
PHOENIX GONZALEZ

Set Design  
KAITLYN LANDRY

Lighting Design  
DAPHNE AGOSIN

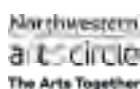
Sound Design  
BRANDON REED

Sound Engineer  
MATT REICH

Music Direction  
SAMUEL PERLMAN

Costume Design  
ALAINA MOORE

Choreography  
ISAIAH SILVIA-CHANDLEY



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: Owen Kiley 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](http://wirtz.northwestern.edu)

SOMETHING ROTTEN! is approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes long,  
including the two act performance and the 15-minute intermission.

Audience content warning: Strong language and haze

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.**

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

SOMETHING ROTTEN! takes place in 1595, shortly after London theaters reopened following an outbreak of Bubonic plague. Then, as now, theater artists struggled with the challenges of making theater in a period marred by repeated waves of pandemic. Then, as now, theater emerged from plague bruised but not dead; it rebirthed itself like a Phoenix or (to use a more cynical simile) survived like a cockroach.

Despite (or perhaps because of) re-emerging from quarantine, theater culture in 1590s England was artistically dazzling and extraordinarily productive. Few periods created works of such stunning theatrical imagination. Lush landscapes, terrifying supernatural phenomena, epic battles and complex psychologies were created with little more than gorgeously-crafted words spoken on bare stages.

This production takes its cues from the playful, resourceful, and often surreal theatrical conventions of this period (with a flirtatious wink towards the 20th-century Broadway Musical). Now, as then, we invite you to use your imagination while lavishing you with ours.

Working with these extraordinary young artists through the challenges and joys of making theater in a pandemic makes me wonder and hope: Are we, too, entering a new period of creativity, innovation, and artistry after such a long time of dormancy? If the students you will see tonight are any indication, you don't need a Soothsayer to tell you that the answer is yes.

RORY PELSUE, Director

## CAST

Sean Zuckerman .....	Nick Bottom
Declan Collins.....	Nigel Bottom
Peter Carroll.....	Shakespeare
Emily Brooks.....	Bea Bottom
Mariana Leone.....	Nostradamus
Jenna Sage.....	Portia
Joe Blanchard.....	Brother Jeremiah
Meghan Altemose.....	Lady Clapham / Ensemble
Anna Rosenthal.....	Shylock / Ensemble
Alexander Christie .....	Snug / Ensemble
Blake Croft.....	Snout / Ensemble
Wes D'Alelio.....	Peter Quince
Dani Goldberg .....	Robin / Ensemble
Adelina Marinello .....	The Minstrel / Ensemble
Matthew Millin.....	Flute / Ensemble
Tallulah Nours .....	Eyepatch Man / Ensemble
Olivia Pryor.....	Master of the Justice / Announcer / Ensemble
Harrison Lewis.....	Ensemble
Adam Lipson .....	Ensemble
Sophia Talwalker.....	Ensemble
Elyse Yun.....	Ensemble
Sadie Fridley.....	Ensemble
Alex Angrist .....	Swing
Eric Powers .....	Swing

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Rory Pelsue.....	Director
Anushka Agarwala.....	Production Stage Manager
William Marchetta .....	Stage Manager
Jemma Decetra .....	Stage Manager
Samara Malik.....	Assistant Director
Phoenix Gonzalez.....	Assistant Director/Assistant Dramaturg
Deon Custard.....	Dramaturg
Kaitlyn Landry.....	Set Designer
Alaina Moore .....	Costume Designer
Lia Wallfish.....	Assistant Costume Designer
Chibu Onyenemezu .....	Assistant Costume Designer
Daphne Agosin .....	Lighting Designer
Seojung Jang.....	Assistant Lighting Designer
Brandon Reed.....	Sound Designer
Matt Reich .....	Sound Engineer
Isaiah Silvia-Chandley.....	Choreographer
Micah Figueroa.....	Fight and Intimacy Director

## MUSIC TEAM

Samuel Perlman.....	Music Director
Oliver Paddock.....	Associate Music Director
Rena Maduro .....	Music Assistant
Mitchell Huntley.....	Music Assistant
Jamie Lee.....	Reed 1
Leo Schlaifer .....	Reed 2
Megan Radcliffe.....	Trumpet
Joe Nedder .....	Trombone
Samuel Perlman.....	Keyboard 1/Conductor
Cameron A. Miya.....	Keyboard 2
Rena Maduro .....	Keyboard 3
Mathew Coble.....	Guitar 1
Sungbin Yun .....	Guitar 2
Alexander Carroll.....	Bass
Drew McComas .....	Drums

## SPECIAL THANKS:

Brendan Pelsue, Al Heartley, TJ Tapp,  
Barbara Butts, Aidan Klingses, Karina  
Patel, Mantra Radhakrishnan

**TIME: 1595**

**PLACE: SOUTH BANK OF LONDON**

## **MUSICAL NUMBERS**

### **ACT 1**

Overture.....	
Welcome to the Renaissance.....	Full Cast
God, I Hate Shakespeare.....	Nick, Nigel, Male Ensemble
Right Hand Man.....	Bea, Nick, Nigel
God, I Hate Shakespeare (Reprise).....	Nick
A Musical.....	Nick, Nostradamus, Ensemble
The Black Death.....	Nick, Nigel, Male Ensemble
I Love the Way.....	Portia, Nigel
Will Power.....	Shakespeare, Nigel, Portia, Ensemble
Bottom's Gonna Be On Top.....	Nick, Nigel, Bea, Shylock, Shakespeare, Ensemble

### **ACT 2**

Entr'acte.....	
Welcome to the Renaissance (Reprise).....	Minstrel
Hard to Be the Bard.....	Shakespeare, Male Ensemble
It's Eggs.....	Nick, Male Ensemble
We See the Light.....	Portia, Nigel, Jeremiah, Ensemble
Nigel's Theme.....	Nigel
To Thine Own Self Be True.....	Nigel, Male Ensemble
Right Hand Man (Reprise).....	Bea
Something Rotten.....	Nick, Shakespeare, Male Ensemble
Make an Omelette.....	Nick, Nostradamus, Shakespeare, Ensemble
To Thine Own Self (Reprise).....	Nick, Nigel
Welcome to America.....	Nick, Nigel, Bea, Portia, Ensemble



## COMPANY BIOS

**MEGHAN ALTEMOSE (she/her/hers)** is a Senior Theatre major at Northwestern in the Music Theatre Certificate Program. Some of her favorite roles at Northwestern include Ethel in the American Music Theatre Project's *Everly Yours* and as a Soloist in The Wirtz Center's summer production, *What Did I Miss?*. Meghan was a National Finalist at the Classical Singers Competition and ranked 2nd place at the National Society of Arts and Letters' Musical Theatre Competition. Go 'cats!

**ANUSHKA AGARWALA (she/her/hers)** is a first year Theatre major in the Theatre Management Module. She serves as Assistant Artistic Producer for the 79th Dolphin Show and Marketing Assistant for the Waa-Mu Show. Past Northwestern StuCo Credits Include: *Sometimes the Rain*, *Sometimes the Sea*.

**ALEX ANGRIST (she/her/hers)**, a freshman Theatre major, is ecstatic to join #SwingNation in her first production at Northwestern! Hailing from New York City where she attended The Brearley School, Alex has trained almost fifteen years at New York Theatre Ballet and Steps on Broadway. Memorable performances include playing Johanna in *Sweeney Todd*, singing at Feinstein's 54 Below, and dancing in Carnegie Hall's *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. Many thanks to the cast and crew for getting the show on its feet!

**JOE BLANCHARD (he/him/his)** is a 4th year Theatre and Political Science double major in the Musical Theatre Certificate Program. He was last seen onstage in Arts Alliance's *Godspell* and in the Wirtz Center's *Legally Blonde*. Joe sends his most loving thanks to his family, friends, Melissa Foster, and the team of Mark IV for helping him get this far.

**EMILY ANN BROOKS (she/her/hers)** is a senior Theatre major in the Music Theatre Certificate and World Literature minor, thrilled to return to the Wirtz center after performing in *Last Stop on Market Street*, *Waa-Mu 89 and 90*, *Legally Blonde*, and *AMTP: Scotland, PA*, choreographing *In His Hands*, *Tomás and the Library Lady*, and *Machinal*, and directing/choreographing her upcoming honors thesis/student theatre project

*Going on Seventeen*. Endless love and gratitude to the cast, team, and Melissa Foster!

**PETER CARROLL (he/him/his)** is a senior in the Music Theatre Certificate program, majoring in Theater and minoring in Psychology. Northwestern credits include *A Chorus Line* (Don), *Voyeurs de Venus* (Bradsford), and *Hello, Dolly!* (Horace Vandergelder). He is from San Francisco, California and therefore can't wait to graduate and leave this frozen wasteland forever (just kidding). He is extremely fortunate to work with such a passionate, driven, and super-talented cast. Shoutout to Dad and Mom, Mimi and Papa, Will, Grace, Barbara, Wendy, Craig, Tyler, Ate, Freshman Fifteen A Cappella, and Beth Ellen <3. Thank you for the constant love and support.

**ALEXANDER CHRISTIE (he/him/his)** is a senior Theatre major and Sociology minor in the Acting for the Screen module. This marks his Wirtz Center debut! Recent Northwestern credits include *Much Ado About Nothing* (Borachio), *Dance Nation* (Luke), and *Spamalot* (Ensemble). He serves as the company manager for Tonik Tap.

**DECLAN COLLINS (they/he)** is a second-year Theatre major in the Musical Theatre Certificate, and is so excited to be working with this wonderful cast and creative team! On-campus, Declan is the music director of Freshman 15 A Cappella and a member of Playing With Fire, Northwestern's playback theatre troupe. Later this quarter, Declan will be featured in *Home For the Summer*, a new musical in the American Musical Theatre Project Capstone Festival. Please enjoy the show!

**BLAKE CROFT (he/him/his)** is a sophomore theatre major at NU, and is excited to be performing in one of his favorite musicals of all time! Previous Northwestern credits include: *Buried Child*, *Theory of Relativity*, and *Mamma Mia!*. Blake also enjoys writing in any and every context. He would like to thank David Catlin for his support, as well as the company for their constant hard work!

**WESLEY D'ALELIO (he/him/his)** is a junior from Boxford, Massachusetts, majoring in Theatre and Music. He's a member of the Musical Theatre Certificate program and the Creating the

Musical module. He entered Northwestern as a performer, and has spent the last three years exploring music direction and composition for musical theatre. He's happiest when singing, playing guitar or piano, working on The Waa-Mu Show as its Assistant Music Director and Music Historian, and beatboxing for THUNK A Cappella.

**SADIE FRIDLEY (she/her/hers)** is a first year theatre major in the Music Theatre Certificate program and is so excited to be a part of her first Wirtz show! Sadie loves musical theatre and jazz music and has performed at venues such as Feinstein's 54 Below and the Palladium Theatre as a Great American Songbook Youth Ambassador. Sadie would like to thank the fantastic creative team of *Something Rotten!* for their leadership and her family for their constant support.

**DANI GOLDBERG (they/them)** is a third year Theatre major in the Music Theatre Certificate program with a minor in Computer Science. Past roles at Northwestern include *Outdoor Bird*, *Godspell*, *The Purr-fect Mewsical*, Wirtz: [re: *CLICK*], *Waa-Mu: State of the Art* and *ImagineU: Tomas and the Library Lady* and *The Emperor's New Clothes*. They are excited to be singing and dancing in person again with such a wonderful cast and creative team!

**KAITLYN LANDRY (she/her/hers)** Currently an MFA student in the Stage Design program at Northwestern. They have worked on two other Wirtz productions as a designer - *Tomas and the Library*, as the Scenic Designer, and the *Rise of the Phoenix*, as a Giant Puppet Designer (Goose and Kestrel).

**MARIANA LEONE (she/her/hers)** is a senior Theatre & Political Science major in the Music Theatre Certificate program. She is originally from Philadelphia! Some of her favorite NU credits include *Fresh/Anna* in [*Re:Click*] and *Two in Islander!* She foresees you enjoying the show...

**HARRISON LEWIS (he/him/his)** is a Junior Theatre major in the Music Theatre Certificate Program and Creating the Musical module. Recent credits include *Last Stop on Market Street*, *Assassins*, *What Did I Miss?*, *The Purr-fect Mew-sical*, and *People You May Know* as well as the world premieres of *Bull Durham* (Alliance Theatre) and *Dreamland* (ITF). Additionally, he enjoys writing, directing, and playing music and is a member of Purple Haze A Capella and the

Jewish Theatre Ensemble on campus. He hopes you enjoy the show!

**ADAM LIPSON (he/him/his)** is a second-year Theatre & Neuroscience double major in the Music Theatre Certificate program from San Francisco, CA. He is so excited to be performing in his first show at Northwestern! Adam would like to thank his family for constantly supporting him (and flying in to see the show!) and his friends for always being there for him. Enjoy the show!

**ADELINA MARINELLO (she/her/hers)** is a sophomore studying Theatre and Environmental Policy in the Music Theatre Certificate Program. Credits include *Islander*, *The Secret of Camp Elliott*, and *Songs for a New World*. Additionally she enjoys playwriting and is a member of Undertones A Cappella and Vertigo Productions on campus. She would like to extend all of her thanks to Rory Pelsue and the company of *Something Rotten!* for making this production possible.

**MATTHEW MILLIN (he/him/his)** is a sophomore Theatre Major in the Music Theatre Certificate Program. He is a member of Purple Haze A Cappella, WAVE productions, Steam Heat Dance Company, and the Waa-Mu Writing Board. Matthew would like to thank the entire company of *Something Rotten!* for such a fun and rewarding process in the midst of a global pandemic. Welcome to the Renaissance, and enjoy the show!

**ALAINA MOORE (she/her/hers)** is a Chicago-based multidisciplinary artist, currently pursuing her MFA in Stage Design at Northwestern. She is an ardent believer in the transformational power of beauty beyond traditional valuations, binaries, and judgements. Previous stage credits include work with Raven Theatre (Joseph Jefferson Nomination for Best Costume Design, *The Playboy of the Western World*), Mercy Street Theatre, and Nothing Without A Company. Notable work for the screen includes costume and production design for the short film *Bride of Frankie*, for which she won multiple festival awards. She is a graduate of Columbia College Chicago.

**TALLULAH NOUSS (she/her/hers)** is thrilled to be making her Wirtz debut in *Something Rotten!* She is a first year Theatre Major in the Music



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Theatre Certificate program, and plans to minor in Business Institutions and Dance. Northwestern's Tonik Tap and Graffiti dance companies keep her busy when she isn't rehearsing! Love to her friends and family for all their support and the amazing cast for making her first college production one she will never ever forget!

**RORY PELSUE (he/him/his)** is a New York-based director of new and classic plays, musicals, and operas. He is the resident director of the company Fake Friends, for whom he directed the live-stream productions of *This American Wife* (Best Performances of 2021: New Yorker Magazine), and Pulitzer Prize Finalist and Drama League Nominee *Circle Jerk*. Recent and upcoming credits include the world premieres of *Read to Me* at Portland Stage, *The Show on the Roof* at Boise Contemporary Theater, and *Deathbed Edition* at Ars Nova ANT Fest; workshops of *Circle Jerk* and *Elektra* at Ars Nova and *Alumni Relations* at South Coast Repertory Theater; and assistant directing at the Metropolitan Opera, Roundabout Theater Company, McCarter Theater, and Yale Repertory Theater. Artistic leadership experience includes serving as artistic director or associate artistic director of Yale Cabaret, Yale Summer Cabaret, MaineStage Shakespeare, and Oxbridge Opera. Rory has also taught and directed at various college and universities including Northwestern University, Queens College, the University of Pennsylvania, and Fordham University. Originally from Newburyport, Massachusetts, Rory received

his BA at Sarah Lawrence College and MFA in directing from the Yale School of Drama, where he received the Julian Milton Kaufman Memorial Prize for directing. (rorypelsue.com)

**SAMUEL PERLMAN (he/him/his)** is a senior music director, composer, clarinetist, and pianist from Highland Park, Illinois. Samuel's recent and upcoming theatre productions include *The 91st Annual Waa-Mu Show: A Peculiar Inheritance* (Music Director), *Abandon All Hope: A Musical Comedy* (Composer/Music Supervisor), and *WAVE Productions' Sometimes the Rain, Sometimes the Sea* (Composer/Music Director). His recent concert works include collaborations with Third Coast Percussion and Nathalie Joachim.

**ERIC POWERS (he/him/his)** is a Sophomore studying Theatre in the Musical Theatre Certificate program and French from Dayton, Ohio. He is very excited to be a part of his first show at Northwestern as a performer! Additionally he enjoys writing, playing piano and cello, and loves being involved with Team Music on campus! He hopes you enjoy the show!

**OLIVIA PRYOR (she/her/hers)** is a senior studying Theatre, Musical Theatre, and Statistics. She is so excited to be a part of the celebration of musical theatre that is *Something Rotten!* Favorite NU credits include *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Julius Caesar*, and *Get Out Alive*. She would like to thank the whole *Something Rotten!* team for making this process so much fun!

**BRANDON REED (he/him/his)** is a designer, composer, and engineer based in Chicago. Regional credits include with PlayMakers Repertory Company, Cardinal Stage Company, Cape Fear Regional Theatre, Lake Dillon Theatre Company, Adirondack Theatre Festival, Arkansas Shakespeare, Chautauqua Theater Company, and many more. Chicago credits include Windy City Playhouse, Congo Square, Teatro Vista, About Face, Underscore Theatre, and many more. He is the Sound Supervisor for Lookingglass Theatre Company. He earned his MFA from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and his BS from Ball State University. He's a member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829 (USA829), Theatrical Sound Designers and Composers Association (TSDCA), and USITT.

**ANNA GRACE ROSENTHAL (she/her/hers)** is a sophomore theatre major in the Musical Theatre Certificate Program. Favorite credits at Northwestern thus far include *The Battlefields of Clara Barton*, *JTE's Song Cycle*, and *Marching On: A William Finn Review*. Anna is a proud member of the Northwestern Undertones and Steam Heat Dance company and is immensely grateful for the opportunity to perform on-stage again with such a wonderful cast and crew!

**JENNA SAGE (she/her/hers)** is a senior in the Music Theatre certificate program, majoring in Theatre, with a minor in Psychology. Northwestern credits include *The Battlefields of Clara Barton* (Dolly), *9 to 5* (Judy), *Legally Blonde* (Whitney), and *The Girl Who* (Queen Bella). Other favorites are *A Doll's House* (Nora) and *Into the Woods*

(Little Red). Beyond acting she enjoys songwriting, directing and teaching Pilates. Shout out to Mom, Dad, Dash, and the Walnut Hill School for the Arts.

**SOPHIA TALWALKAR (she/her/hers)** is a Sophomore studying Theatre and Cognitive Science, and is beyond thrilled to be a part of Wirtz's *Something Rotten!* This is her third show at Northwestern, which is strange since Northwestern wasn't founded until at least 300 years after the Renaissance. She thanks the cast, crew, her family, her voice teacher Melissa, and her friends for their unwavering talent, support and love - and for listening to her constant singing:) Break a leg everyone!

**ELYSE YUN (she/her/hers)** is a third-year Performance Studies Major pursuing a minor in Film & Media Studies & a certificate in Integrated Marketing Communications. Originally from Naples, Florida, Elyse was a competitive gymnast for 10 years before realizing that she is a theatre nerd at heart. Some of her favorite on-campus credits include *Godspell*, *Pippin*, & *Waa-Mu: State of the Art*. She is so humbled & excited to be a part of such an incredible team!!

**SEAN ZUCKERMAN (he/him/his)** is a third-year Theatre Major from Ridgewood, New Jersey. He is pursuing the Music Theatre Certificate and the Creating the Musical module at Northwestern, while also staying heavily involved with The Undertones and The Waa-Mu Show. Favorite roles include Leonard Cohen/Others in *Joni: busy being free* and Mr. Smith in *Waa-Mu: The Secret of Camp Elliott*. Special shoutout to his friends, family, and professors for their endless love and support!



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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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