

Northwestern | WIRTZ CENTER



# BLOOD WEDDING

JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 5, 2023

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

**proudly presents**

# BLOOD WEDDING

By Federico García Lorca  
Translated by Caridad Svich

Director  
ISMAEL LARA, JR.

Stage Manager  
JAMES HISANAGA

Production Stage Manager  
ANUSHKA AGARWALA

Stage Manager  
WILLIAM MARCHETTA

Choreographer  
EMILY BROOKS

Lighting Designer  
AVI SHEEHAN

Set Designer  
TIANXUAN CHEN

Sound Designer  
PHIL LEE

Sound Designer  
MYA VANDEGRIFT

Costume Design  
ALAINA MOORE

Assistant Director  
NINI BAGUNDO

Assistant Director  
JUAN BARRERA LOPEZ

Fight Intimacy Choreographer  
MICAH FIGUEROA

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: Haley Groth

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

*Blood Wedding* is approximately 90 minutes long,  
with no intermission during the performance.

Audience advisories: Haze, periodic bright light, periodic high frequency sounds  
Please click [here](#) for content warnings.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

As a director, I gravitate toward plays that are gut-wrenching, stories that take your heart right out of your chest and set it aflame in front of you. *Blood Wedding* is one of those plays. When I first read it, I felt a kindred spirit in Lorca. He was a man with ferocious bravery, who was openly himself at a time when queerness was even more condemned. He was fighting against societal norms and choosing to live fully and freely until August 19, 1936 when he was murdered for it.

It is true to me that in each generation, there's a realization that the foundation we stand upon is broken and we want to dismantle it. I believe this play to be Lorca's call for liberation, this was his way of dismantling the system. With an incantation that love will lead the way to freedom. He gifts us a story about a community trapped by a traditional patriarchal structure, abiding by societal expectation, and wrestling with an unlive life. We watch as their suppressed, animalistic desires begin to seep out, like steam seeping out of a boiling kettle until it's screaming to be heard. Lorca pulls back the curtain and unveils this broken system, exposing it and the turmoil, chaos, and death it has caused.

Death, yes. But not in vain. *Two men die for love.*

"To burn with desire and keep quiet about it is the greatest punishment we can bring on ourselves."

-- Federico García Lorca

ISMAEL LARA, JR., Director

## CAST

Alex DeVito .....	Moon
Alexis Diaz-Waterman .....	Bride
Amanda Elena de la Fuente .....	Young Woman & Spinning Woman
Angelina Friedrichs .....	Female Swing
Benjamin Jouras .....	Father-of-the-Bride & Woodcutter
Charlie Niccolini .....	Young Man & Woodcutter
Daijah Marie Guillermo .....	Girl
Danielle Llevada .....	Mother-in-Law & Woodcutter
Danny Mares .....	Best Man
Esteban Ortiz-Villacorta .....	Groom
Gabriela Furtado Coutinho .....	Mother
Kason Chesky .....	Male Swing
Natalie Friedman .....	Neighbor
Nena Martins .....	Wife
Rinn Maldonado .....	Woman & Spinning Woman
Sophia Talwalkar .....	Maid & Beggar
Theo Gyra .....	Leonardo

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Director .....	Ismael Lara, Jr.
Assistant Directors .....	Nini Bagundo, Juan Barrera Lopez
Set Designer .....	Tianxuan Chen
Assistant Set Designer .....	Hayley Wallenfeldt
Costume Designer .....	Alaina Moore
Assistant Costume Designer .....	Henry Winkelman
Lighting Designer .....	Avi Sheehan
Assistant Lighting Designer .....	Rafael Barocas
Sound Designers .....	Phil Lee, Mya Vandegrift
Production Stage Manager .....	Anushka Agarwala
Stage Managers .....	James Hisanaga, William Marchetta
Choreographer .....	Emily Brooks
Intimacy and Fight Choreographer .....	Micah Figueroa
Dramaturg .....	Nini Bagundo

## COMPANY BIOS

**ALEX DEVITO (they/them)** is a Sophomore Theatre major at Northwestern. Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, other credits at Wirtz include *As You Like It*, *The 91st Annual Waa-Mu Show*, and *Open House*. Other NU performances include Arts Alliance's *Mamma Mia*, *Blackout! Live*, and *Merrily We Drag Along*. They are very excited for you to see this show, and hope you enjoy!

**ALEXIS DIAZ-WATERMAN (she/her)** is a third-year student at Northwestern University studying Theatre and Computer Science and she is very excited to be part of Lorca's heartbreakingly beautiful story. She has appeared in a student production of *She Kills Monsters*, a staged reading of *Radial Gradient* with Avalanche Theatre, and a multitude of short films. She would like to thank all of her friends and family for their constant love and support.

**AMANDA DE LA FUENTE (she/her)** is Sophomore Theatre major and Dance minor at Northwestern. Amanda is thrilled to be apart of this production! A native to Chicago IL, she was thrown into theatre at age 3 and has not left the stage since. Recent Projects: *Water By the Spoonful* (Yaz), *Things I Wish I Said Out Loud* (Florabela/John), *Antigone* (Choreographer). Additionally, she works as Eight Counts Ballet Company's Company Manager and teaches ballet at Ruth Page Center for the Arts.

**ANGELINA FREDRICH (she/her)** is thrilled to be in her first Wirtz show at Northwestern University. As a Latina actor, Angelina is beyond grateful to be a part of *Blood Wedding*. Spanish is Angelina's first language, so she is particularly excited about the Spanish incorporated into this show. Angelina thanks her parents for constantly supporting her.

**BENJAMIN JOURAS (he/him)** is thrilled to be performing in his first live Wirtz Center production. A senior Theatre major & Religious Studies minor, his past credits include Creon in *Antigone*, Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and Henry Gilman in the podcast *My Dear Alice*. In addition to performing, Benjamin is also a dramaturg who is currently working on this year's Waa-Mu show. A native of Chicagoland, Benjamin hails from Western Springs, Illinois and hopes that you all enjoy the show!

**CHARLIE NICCOLINI (he/him)** is a sophomore Theatre major at Northwestern and a member of THUNK a cappella. Credits include *Richard III* at the Shakespeare Theatre Company in D.C. and *The Other Josh Cohen* at the Westside Theatre in NYC. He would like to thank Ismael and the entire cast and crew for their incredible work over the past few months.

**DAIJAH MARIE GUILLERMO (she/her)** is a Latina actress from Queens, New York studying Theatre and Psychology at Northwestern. Prior to her undergraduate career at Northwestern, she studied acting and devised theatre at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Her recent credits include *The Bloody Bricks and Blows of American Dream High* at Northwestern and *Fortinbras* with Crescent City Stage Company. She would like to thank her family for their continued love and support.

**DANIELLE LLEVADA (she/her)** is a Senior Theatre major and Business Institutions minor from Miami, FL. At Northwestern, she appeared previously in *As You Like It*, *a Musical Adaptation* (Miss Amiens), *Late*, *A Cowboy Song* (Red), and *Escapeland* (Gloria). Danielle is a student in the Musical Theatre Certificate program as well as a screenwriting fellow in the Pritzker Pucker Studio Lab. She thanks the cast and team for their hard work and creative spirit.

**DANNY MARES (he/him)** is a Theater Senior excited to work on his 3rd production with director Ismael Lara after performing in *Tomás and the Library Lady* and *Accidental Expat?*. You may also recognize him as the lead Elliot in the Wirtz production, *Water by the Spoonful* last spring. He recently acted as the lead in a short film awarded fan favorite for the 48 Hour Film Project called "No Way Out." "Thanks everyone!"

**ESTEBAN ORTIZ-VILLACORTA (he/him)** is a sophomore Theatre major from Seattle, Washington. Previously Esteban's been seen as the Guitarman in *Last Stop on Market Street* and as Caveman in *As You Like It*. Besides acting, Esteban writes plays and music (sometimes at the same time), and likes to play gigs with his band not alone. Esteban is very grateful to be in this production. Le agradece a su familia y sus amigos por su apoyo. Disfruta el show.

## COMPANY BIOS

**GABRIELA FURTADO COUTINHO (she/her)** is a Brazilian artist and a Theatre/Creative Writing senior. Recent projects: *In The Heights* (Abuela), *Water By The Spoonful* (Odessa), *Bloody Bricks...* (playwright), *Much Ado...* (director). She feels grateful for work experiences with The Kennedy Center, Television Academy/Emmy's, and Chicagoland theatre. Gabriela thanks this creative team for welcoming her to share this powerful story. "En la bandera de la libertad bordé el amor más grande de mi vida." -Federico García Lorca

**KASON CHESKY (he/him)** is a first-year Theatre student and is extremely proud for *Blood Wedding* to serve as his first project at Northwestern University. He believes in the power of global theatre and hopes that this play will be as meaningful for audiences as it is for him. He would like to thank Ismael and the rest of the *Blood Wedding* production team for taking a chance on a new student.

**NATALIE FRIEDMAN (she/her)** is thrilled to be making her Wirtz Center main-stage debut in this incredible production of *Blood Wedding*! From Los Angeles, California, Natalie is a senior Theatre major and Psychology minor with an Acting for the Screen module. Recent projects include: *In The Heights* (Camila), *Project NU: Human F\*\*\*ing Resources* (director), and *Twelfth Night* (Feste) at BADA in London. She would like to thank her family and friends for their constant support.

**NENA MARTINS (she/her)** is a Senior studying Theatre and Creative Writing. This year, she has had the pleasure of playing Antigone in *Antigone* (at the legendary Shanley Shack), Lucy in *Round Yon Virgin* (at the Factory Theatre) and is excited to now be a part of this show which she grew up loving. She is especially excited to not have to speak English for once! She is a member of Griffin's Tale and the Titanic Players.

**RINN MALDONADO (she/her)** is thrilled to have spent her last winter quarter as a senior in a rehearsal room as lovely as this one. Most recently, she was seen playing dead in *The Waa-Mu Show*. If you're cool, you might also have seen her in a Tonik Tap performance. Go 'cats!

**SOPHIA TALWALKAR (she/her)** is beyond

thrilled to be a part of the Wirtz Center's production of *Blood Wedding*. This is her third Wirtz production, and she could not be more grateful to work with this team. She would like to thank Ismael for his genius, passion, and love, all the smart and gorgeous cast and crew who have worked tirelessly to give life to Lorca's words, and her family for making her the artist she is today. She hopes you all enjoy the heart, spirit, and power of this show as much as she does.

**THEO GYRA (he/him)** is a Sophomore from Dubai, United Arab Emirates studying Theatre and Arabic with a certificate in Music Theatre. Previous Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center credits include: *Be Mean To Me* (Damir), *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* (Tom), and the American Musical Theatre Project's *Cowboy Bob* (Cop Billy), and *Escapeland* (Luke). He would like to sincerely thank the entire *Blood Wedding* team, Northwestern Theatre faculty, and his family and friends for their constant support.

**ISMAEL LARA, JR. (he/him)** is a Mexican director originally from Texas. His mission is to uplift and examine the work of artists who identify within the Latine diaspora and he aspires to bring Spanish to stages across America. Selected credits: *Last Hermanos* (A Red Orchid), *In His Hands, Tomás & The Library Lady & The Displaced* (Northwestern), *El Guayabo & La Casa Alfonsa* (Creede Rep), *Broken Butterfly Wings & Aunt Leaf* (Cleveland Play House), *Lily Plants A Garden & The Thing I Hold* (Hangar Theater), *And All the Dead Lie Down* (ConCon), *The Elephant Man* (French Creek). He's developed plays with Paramount, Goodman, National Mexican Museum of Art, CPT at Entry Point, Creede Rep, Kane Rep, Rec Room Arts, The Lark and National Queer Theatre. Assoc./Asst. credits: *Rust* (Goodman), *Bull* (Paramount, World Premiere) *American Mariachi* (Goodman Theatre) *The Leopard Play, or sad songs for lost boys* (Steep, World Premiere), *I'm Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* (Steppenwolf, World Premiere), *The Chinese Lady, Junk, Christmas at Pemberley* (Milwaukee Rep). Ismael is a recipient of a Drama League Fellowship.

**TIANXUAN CHEN (she/her)** is the 4th year Scenic Designer at Northwestern. Recent productions include *The Ballad of Mulan* (2022 Winter) and *Late, A Cowboy Song* (2022 Spring).

## COMPANY BIOS

She's excited to be working with this amazing group of people on *Blood Wedding*.

**AVI SHEEHAN (they/them)** is a lighting designer for opera, dance, and theater but is most passionate about the intersection of music, movement, and design. They are currently an M.F.A. candidate in Lighting Design at Northwestern University. Recent design credits include *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* at Portland Center Stage, *In a Grove* with Northwestern Opera Theater, *Men on Boats* at Northwestern University, *Call Me Tempest* with Northwestern Dance, *Safe Space* at Single Carrot Theatre, and *DNA* at Oregon Children's Theatre. Recent assistant credits include *The Magic Flute* and *To the World* at The Glimmerglass Festival. Lots of love to their wife, Sarah.

**PHIL LEE (he/him)** is a film composer and sound designer from Seoul, Korea. He graduated from Berklee College of Music in 2022 with a degree in Film Scoring and currently pursuing a Master's degree in Sound Arts at Northwestern University. Phil has scored various independent films such as "Peace Walking Through People", and "Flowerpot" as freelance composer, and he also has experience in working for video production companies and channels like "Fitness Candy" and "BOWLOW"

**MYA VANDEGRIFT (she/her)** is a composer and sound artist originally from Wooster, Ohio and a current sophomore at Northwestern. Her other work in theatre design has included the *Sonic Playground* (Installation, Performance Hour Grant), *Stupid Fucking Bird* (dir. Declan Collins), and *The Thin Place* (dir. Ethan Karas).

**ANUSHKA AGARWALA (she/her)** is a second-year Theatre major in the Theatre Management Module. She serves as a Production Manager on Vertigo Productions. Past credits include: *Something Rotten!*, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, and *Be Mean to Me*.

**JAMES HISANAGA (they/he/she)** is a second-year Dance major, minoring in Theatre and Gender & Sexuality Studies. They are excited to be working on their first Wirtz production. They are a production manager on Sit & Spin Productions. After *Blood Wedding*, they will be the assistant stage manager for Sit & Spin's *Fan*

*Service* and stage manager for Jewish Theatre Ensemble's *Cabaret*.

**EMILY ANN BROOKS (she/her)** is a recent Northwestern grad whose Wirtz choreography credits include *Waa-Mu: A Peculiar Inheritance*, *In His Hands*, *Tomás and the Library Lady*, and *Machinal*. Regionally, she's choreographed at Metropolis Performing Arts Centre (*A Christmas Carol*) and Paradox Theatre Works (*The Fantasticks*), assistant directed at Lookingglass Theatre (*Lookingglass Alice*), and performed at the Marriott Theatre (*Big Fish*, *A Christmas Story*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Hello, Dolly!*). Love to Ismael, cast and team!





**Thank you to our community partners!**



**Instituto  
Cervantes**

**Chicago**



# 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, 2022 and January 10, 2023.

## **\$1,000-\$19,999**

Graber Family Foundation  
Eileen and Stephen Howard  
President Michael H. Schill  
David H. Zarefsky, PhD

## **\$250-\$999**

Frances Epsen Devlin and Patrick Devlin  
John and Claire Labbe  
Thomas A. and Judith L. Monroe  
Elizabeth Schlecht Murrill and Stephen R. Murrill  
Miles C. and Tiffany W. Pondelik  
Susan and Todd P. Selma  
Sadhna Govindarajulu True and Michael V. True  
Mary Jane Wilson and Jeremy Wilson, PhD

**Donate online at [giving.northwestern.edu](https://giving.northwestern.edu).**

**Thank you for supporting Northwestern University Theatre and Dance!**

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL!



@TheWirtzCenter



@Wirtzcenter



@WirtzCenter



@TheWirtzCenter

## SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION DEANS

E. Patrick Johnson, Dean of the School of Communication and Annenberg University Professor  
Lori Barcliff Baptista, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Advising  
Roderick Hawkins, Associate Dean of External Affairs and Chief of Staff  
Molly Losh, Associate Dean for Research  
Bonnie Martin-Harris, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs  
Rick Morris, Associate Dean for Finance and Administration  
Angela Ray, Associate Dean for Graduate Education  
Tanya Palmer, Assistant Dean & Executive Artistic Director

## SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION CHAIRS

Thomas Bradshaw, Radio/Television/Film  
Leslie DeChurch, Communication Studies  
Nadine George-Graves, Performance Studies  
Henry Godinez, Theatre  
Pam Souza, Roxelyn and Richard Pepper Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders  
Melissa Blanco Borelli, Head of Dance  
Marcus Doshi, Associate Chair of Theatre  
James Schwoch, Associate Chair of Communication Studies  
Jacob Smith, Associate Chair of Radio/Television/ Film

## WIRTZ CENTER STAFF

Jorge Silva ..... Managing Director  
Pete Brace ..... Marketing & Development Mgr.  
Heather Basarab ..... Production Mgr.  
Valerie Tu ..... Production Mgr., Chicago  
Aziza Macklin ..... Audience Experience Mgr.  
Jamie L. Mayhew ..... Box Office Mgr.  
Milan Pejnovich ..... House Mgr.  
Ryan T. Nelson ..... Music Director  
Matthew Buettner ..... Technical Supervisor  
Shannon Perry ..... Lead Carpenter  
Dylan Jost ..... Scenic Carpenter  
James Weber ..... Scenic Artist  
Eileen Rozycki ..... Scenic Painter  
Chris Wych ..... Properties Supervisor  
Kathy Parsons ..... Properties Assistant  
Serena Sandoval ..... Costume Shop Supervisor  
Kristy White ..... Cutter/Draper  
Pamela Brailey ..... Cutter/Draper  
Elizabeth Hunstad ..... First Hand  
Renee Werth ..... Costume Crafts  
Peter Anderson ..... Lighting & Sound Supervisor  
Michael Trudeau ..... Lighting & Sound Technician  
Stephanie J. Lewis ..... OGMCA Media Relations/Arts Editor

## AMERICAN MUSIC THEATRE PROJECT

Alexander Gemignani ..... Artistic Director  
Brannon Bowers ..... Producing Director  
Denise McGillicuddy ..... Program Assistant

## WORK STUDY STUDENTS

Alex Angrist, Noora Bahrami, Satarie Bennett, Evan Bertis-Sample, Alex Branka, Amy Ciabaton, Rachael Dec, Annie Edwards, Kaitlyn Fields, Zach Forbes, Zoryah Gray, Haley Groth, Riley Harrison, Kiara Hill, Devony Hof, Baz Holifield, Luke Hunter, Mitchell Huntley, Andy Johnston, Tessa Kim, Nick Kinney, Clay Lawhead, Jamie Lee, Katherine Li, Amy Liao, Morgan Marin, Rae MacCarthy, Sophia Mitton-Fry, Mario Montes, Ryan Nguyen, Ezra Osburn, Riley Parker, Alaina Parr, Graybill Partington, Elianna Phillips, Brennan Pringle, Brendan Riley, Sylvia Sanchez, Jason Sekili, Zhaohan Sun, Millie Rose Taub, Koji Taylor, Sophie Teitler, Sydney Tennill, Hayley Wallenfeldt, Adam Wysocki, Alex Yang, Jameson Zachery, and Sean Zuckerman