



INDECENT

אויסגעלאסן

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

INDECENT

By Paula Vogel
Score and Original Music by Lisa Gutkin

Director
KELSEY LEIGH ERVI

Choreographer/Asst. Director
TAL SCHATSKY

Scenic Designer
MILO BUE

Costume Designer
LIA WALLFISH

Lighting Designer
YUN LIN

Sound Designer
BRANDON REED*

Projection Designer
DWIGHT BELLISIMO

Music Director
OTTO VOGEL

Production Stage Manager
GEMMA DECETRA

Stage Manager
MICHAEL PETERSON

Stage Manager
SOPHIE ZHANG

Dramaturg
NOAH MARCUS

Intimacy/Fight Choreographer
MICAH FIGUEROA

INDECENT is approximately 1 hour and 55 minutes with no intermission.

Audience Advisories: Haze, Loud Noises

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Original Broadway production produced by Daryl Roth, Elizabeth I. McCann, and Cody Lassen. *INDECENT* was produced by the Vineyard Theatre (Dougals Aibel and Sarah Stern, Artistic Directors; Jennifer Garvey-Blackwell, Executive Director) New York City, Spring 2016. *INDECENT* was commissioned by Yale Repertory Theatre, New Haven, Connecticut (James Bundy, Artistic Director; Victoria Nolan, Managing Director)

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

Northwestern University
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Box Office Phone: 847-491-7282
wirtz.northwestern.edu

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MUSICAL THEATRE

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SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

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 AND DRAMATURG STATEMENT

As theatre artists, storytelling is our medium. We're tasked with using words, bodies, objects, light, and sound to bring a story to life. But it's more than that, isn't it? Through this process, we also bring ourselves to life. Because stories bring people together, like now. And stories can reveal something about ourselves. They can lead to our deepest knowing.

The characters in *Indecent* are, quite literally, revived by storytelling. And though their bodies were taken from them, in our production, their souls have remained in this space. A space akin to an old attic. Where past and present collide, and time moves differently. A space of memory, and history. Indeed, the perfect space to tell a story or two. This play is about many things: the plight of immigrants, artistic censorship, homophobia, antisemitism, the importance of art, the belief that love transcends gender, but chiefly, it is about the power theatre has in creating community for those who have been "othered." An artist. A queer person. An immigrant. A Jew. The people of these identities are similar in that they are all drawn to storytelling and the opportunity to share who they are. And who they are is diverse and complex and deeply rooted in community. There is a story to learn from each of them.

While *Indecent* was inspired by a play first written and performed in Europe over a century ago, it couldn't be more timely for us here today. In a time filled with so much hate, it is particularly hard to stand proud in who you are — especially when, for many, who you are is deemed criminal or falsely compared to some horrific act. To think, the arrest and censorship trial that inspired this play took place exactly 100 years ago, and in the U.S. today there are still plays you can't produce, books you can't read, words you can't say, and people who can't exist freely or safely. This is a harsh reality with which to be faced. But storytelling is an important and meaningful tool to combat this negativity. Working on *Indecent* has brought light and love to our community, our kehillah. And though hate remains on the outside, the community we've built within this process continues to counter it.

Thank you for joining us tonight in our act of resistance, in our act of love. We hope you enjoy our little Jewish play.

**Kelsey Leigh Ervi, Director
Noah Marcus, Dramaturg**

CAST

Samuel Rosner Lemml
Lucia Padilla Katz Chana
Andy Hartman Avram
Gabrielle Bieder Halina
Sean Zuckerman Mendel
Sarah Welford Vera
Harrison Lewis Otto
Otto Vogel Moriz (Accordion)
Jesse Ji Saul (Violin)
Noah Stone Mayer (Clarinet)
Rachel Weintraub u/s Chana, Dance Captain
Max Reichel u/s Avram
Mikaela Fenn u/s Vera
Felix Garkisch u/s Saul (Violin)
Nathan Kock u/s Mayer (Clarinet)

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director Kelsey Leigh Ervi
Choreographer/Assistant Director Tal Schatsky
Music Director Otto Vogel
Scenic Designer Milo Bue
Costume Designer Lia Wallfish
Lighting Designer Yun Lin
Sound Designer Brandon Reed
Projection Designer Dwight Bellissimo
Production Stage Manager Gemma DeCetra
Stage Managers Michael Peterson, Xinyuan "Sophie" Zhang
Dramaturg Noah Marcus
Intimacy/Fight Choreographer Micah Figueroa
Dialect Coach Linda Gates
Asst. Costume Designers Sam Hernandez, Ezra Osburn
Asst. Lighting Designer Alex Yang
Asst. Intimacy/Fight Choreo. Craig Carroll
Asst. Dialect Coach Megan Gendelman

SPECIAL THANKS

**MEGAN CARNEY, SHANA COOPER, CHRISTINA CROWDER, DR.
MARCUS MOSELEY, SETH ROSEMAN, RABBI RACHEL WEISS**

SAMUEL ROSNER (Lemml, he/him/his) is a Senior from Atlanta, Georgia studying History and Comparative Literature. On campus, he previously served as the Artistic Director of the Jewish Theatre Ensemble and currently sings with Freshman Fifteen A Cappella. A descendent of a tailor not so far from Balut, he is honored to call *Indecent* his final show at Northwestern.

LUCIA PADILLA KATZ (Chana, she/her/hers) is absolutely thrilled to be working on such a timely, important, and meaningful play. She is a Junior studying Theatre, English Creative Writing, and Musical Theatre. Select Northwestern credits: Jacques in *As You Like It*, OG in *Men On Boats*, and Ava in the AMTP project *Home for the Summer*. Past regional credits: *Delilah* at The Greenhouse Theatre, *Grown* at Refracted Theatre Company, and *Henry IV P1* and *Pericles* at Prague Shakespeare Company. Lucia's new play, *the mad girls*, was recently produced as part of the Jewish Theatre Ensemble's New Work series. Many thanks to her wonderful teachers, friends, and family.

ANDY HARTMAN (Avram, he/him/his) is a Senior Theatre Major from New York City who is honored to be ending his time on campus with *Indecent!* Recent Northwestern credits include *Into The Woods* (The Baker), *The 91st Annual Waa-Mu Show* (Cast & Writer), and *The Lightning Thief* (Luke). Endless gratitude to the cast and creative team, as well as his unbelievably supportive professors, friends, and family. Dedicated to all the Jewish artists past, present, and future who create even in the face of anti-Semitism.

GABRIELLE BIEDER (Halina, she/her/hers) is overflowing with love and gratitude for this production. Gabrielle is from New York and made her Chicago debut in the Jeff Nominated Production of *She Loves Me* this past Spring. She will be graduating in June with a Music Theatre Certificate and Minor in Political Science. Gabrielle

dedicates her performance in *Indecent* to her family members that perished during the Holocaust. Special thanks to Melissa, Henry, and Gabrielle's family for their unwavering support. @gabriellebieder

SEAN ZUCKERMAN (Mendel, he/him/his) is a Senior 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. Recent credits include *Something Rotten!* (Nick Bottom), *Me... Jane* (Rusty), and *Violet* (Preacher). Special shoutout to his friends, family, and professors for their endless love and support!

SARAH WELFORD (Vera, she/her/hers) is thrilled to be finishing her final quarter at Northwestern with *Indecent*. You might have seen her last winter as a certain slinky dog in *The Snowy Day*. In addition to performing, Sarah is a director on campus with credits including *Shakespeare's R&J* and *She Kills Monsters*. She is also an avid challah baker and user of Yiddish curse words.

HARRISON LEWIS (Otto, he/him/his) is a Senior Theatre major in the Music Theatre Certificate Program and Creating the Musical Module. Recent Northwestern performance credits include *Violet*, *As You Like It*, *Something Rotten*, *Last Stop on Market Street*, and *People You May Know*. As a writer or director: *A Song in Search of Summer*, *Waterland*, *Staring at the Dogwood Trees*, *Behind the Mirrors*, and *Daddy Long Legs*. He would like to thank his amazing friends, family, and NU mentors for their support everyone involved with this production for entrusting him to help tell this important story.

RACHEL ARIANNA WEINTRAUB (u/s Chana, she/her/hers) is a Sophomore studying Theatre and Dance, honored to be working on this production. Favorite NU credits: Ensemble/Cassie US in last years

Waa show, *Swing (By Any Other Name)*, and *Slank (Peter and the Starcatcher)*. Other credits include: *Saturday Night Live*, *Sesame Street*; Off-Broadway: *Happily, Bend in the Road*, *Number the Stars* and more. She is so happy to tell this story with such wonderful performers, thank you Kelsey, Tal, Otto, and Gemma!

MAX REICHEK (u/s Avram, he/him/his) is a third-year undergraduate Theatre major, focusing his studies on Acting, Directing, and Playwriting. Behind the scenes, Max is studying Sound Design, and is assistant sound designing Wirtz's upcoming production of *Everybody*. He is also currently touring in the Purple Crayon Players winter production of *Digging Up Dessa* across Evanston.

MIKAELA FENN (u/s Vera, she/her/hers) is a Senior Theatre major with minors in Dance and French and a module in Theatre Management. *Indecent* is one of her favorite plays so she is so honored that she not only got to work on it but that she also gets to share it with you. She wants to thank all of her friends and family for their constant support and hopes you enjoy the show!

KELSEY LEIGH ERVI (Director, they/them/theirs) is a queer, non-binary director, actor, and artistic leader. Prior to Chicago, Kelsey spent eight years in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas where from 2016-2019 they served as Associate Artistic Director for WaterTower Theatre. Their interests as a theatre artist include devising, queer stories, stories about community, classic stories reimaged, and stories that explore identity. Previous Northwestern credits include *Late*, *A Cowboy Song* and *Romeo and Juliet*. They are a member of Actors' Equity Association. www.kelseyleighervi.com

TAL SCHATSKY (Choreographer/Assistant Director) is a Chicago-based choreographer, director, actor and writer. Previous work with the Wirtz Center

includes *Men on Boats* (Choreographer) and *Dance Nation* (Assistant Director). Other regional credits include *I Am a Camera* at Porchlight Music Theater (Assistant Director) and *White Christmas* at Music Theater Works (Ensemble). Tal graduated from Northwestern in 2022 and is thrilled to be back to tell this beautiful story.

MILO BUE (Scenic Designer, he/him/his) is excited to be joining Northwestern University on this production. His design credits include *Wolf at the End of the Block* (Teatro Vista), *Spamilton* (Forbidden Broadway), *Pinocchio* (Neverbird/Chicago Children Theatre). Associate design credits include *Beauty and the Beast* (Paramount Theatre), *The King's Speech* (Tour), *The Prince of Egypt* (Dominion Theatre London) . Milo graduated from Columbia College Chicago and is a MFA candidate in the stage design program here at NU.

LIA WALLFISH (Costume Designer, she/her/hers) is a 3rd year MFA student. Lia was born in Israel, after her mandatory military service, she attended UCLA and graduated in 2019 with a BA in Theater. Her Northwestern credits include *The Revolutionists* (costume designer), *The Battlefield of Clara Barton* (co-costume designer), and outside Northwestern credits include *Julius Cesar* (The Independent Shakespeare Company) and *Twelfth Night* (The Independent Shakespeare Company).

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

BRANDON REED (Sound Designer, he/him/his) is a sound designer based in Chicago. Regional credits include Goodman Theatre, American Players Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre Company, FirstFolio, Constellation Stage and Screen, PlayMakers Repertory Company, Marriott Theatre, Cape Fear Regional Theatre and much more. Chicago credits include Northwestern, First Folio, Windy City Playhouse, Congo Square, Teatro Vista, About Face, and many more. He received the 2019 Robert Cohen Award from USITT. MFA: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, BS: Ball State University. www.brandonreedsounddesign.com

DWIGHT BELLISIMO (Projections Designer, he/him/his) is a third year projection design student at The Theater School at DePaul university from the Bay Area. When he is not making theater you can find him making comedic music or in the pool swimming.

GEMMA DECETRA (Production Stage Manager, she/her/hers) is a fourth-year undergraduate studying Theatre Design, Stage Management, and Art. Selected stage management credits include *Something Rotten!*, *A Peculiar Inheritance*, *All Shook Up*, *Anything Goes*, and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Selected costume design credits include *be mean to me*, *Legally Blonde*, *Grease*, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, and *Seussical*. She is looking forward to staying in Chicago after graduation. Samples of her work can be found at gemmadecetra.com.

MICHAEL PETERSON (Stage Manager, he/him/his) is Freshman Theatre major originating from rural Western Massachusetts. *Indecent* is the first show Michael has done anything stage management, and he has enjoyed the experience! He has discovered a newfound love for organization through the enormous amount of spreadsheet creation he has done over the past few

months. In the past, you may have seen Michael perform in shows such as *Fun Home*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Mamma Mia!*. Thank you Barbara!

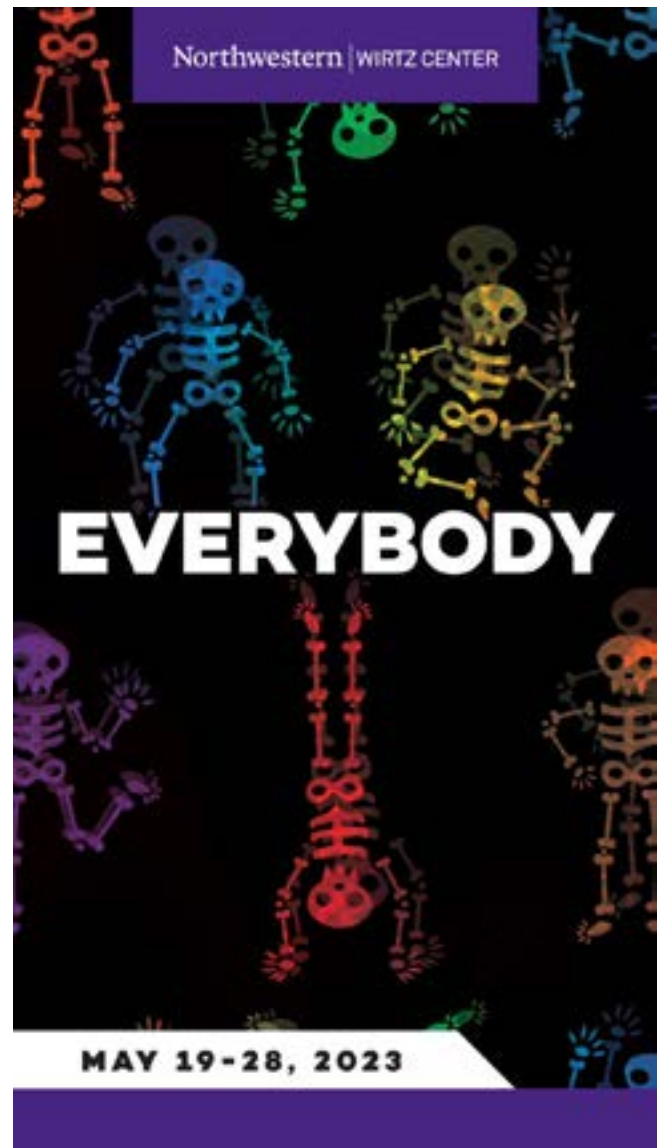
XINYUAN "SOPHIE" ZHANG (Stage Manager, she/her/hers) is an international Freshman from China. She is majoring in Theatre and Cognitive Science, with an interest in Theatre Management. She enjoys making excel spreadsheets, taking notes and colour coding. Before *Indecent*, she worked on the 80th Dolphin Show *Matilda*, and STUCO shows such as *Antigone* and *The Frogs*. This is Sophie's first time working on a Wirtz production! Beyond theatre, she also loves digital illustrating, cooking and playing Stardew Valley. Thank you Barbara!

NOAH MARCUS (Dramaturg, he/him/his) is an actor and first-year PhD student in Northwestern's Interdisciplinary PhD in Theatre and Drama program. He earned both his BA in Theatre and his MA in Theatre Theory and Dramaturgy from the University of Ottawa, in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. His research interests include Jewish theatre, Jewish rituals, and the performance of Jewish identity. Selected acting credits include *Permissible* (Fresh Meat), *Oxygen* (Drama Guild), *ByProducts* (Drama Guild), and *Julius Caesar* (The Grand Theatre).

MICAH FIGUEROA (Intimacy/Fight Choreographer, he/him/his) is a queer, latinx, Chicago-based Actor, Director, Choreographer, and Teaching Artist specializing in intimacy/violence, physical theatre, and circus arts. He is thrilled to be back working with everyone at NU with *Indecent!* His most recent work as a Violence and Intimacy Director was *Anna in the Tropics* with Remy Bumpo Theatre Company. Other select productions include: First Floor Theatre (*Mike Pence Sex Dream*, *Plano*, *Botticelli in the Fire*), Steep Theatre (*The Leopard Play*, *Light Falls*), UNC Charlotte (*These Shining Lives*), and Northwestern University (*In His*

Hands, Something Rotten, Men on Boats, Peerless, Blood Wedding. Upcoming: Everybody). He holds a degree in Directing and Playwriting from Southern Methodist University.

LINDA GATES (Dialect Coach, she/her/hers) is a voice/dialect/text coach, director and actress who works in Chicago, New York, regional theatre and Europe for theatre, opera and film. Recent dialect coaching credits are *Paradise Square* which is opened on Broadway last year and *Quamino's Map* for Chicago Opera Theatre. Chicago theatre credits include: The Goodman, Steppenwolf, Court, Victory Gardens, Lyric Opera and Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. She is Head of Voice at Northwestern University and is the author of *Voice for Performance: Training the Actor's Voice*, now in its 3rd edition and *Speaking in Shakespeare's Voice: A Guide for American Actors* published by Northwestern University Press. She is Head of Voice in the Department of Theatre at Northwestern University, and teaches and directs during the summer for the Prague Shakespeare Company's Summer Intensive in Prague, CZ



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