

Northwestern | WIRTZ CENTER

# LYLE THE CROCODILE



JULY 28-30, 2023

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

# LYLE THE CROCODILE

Adapted for the stage by Kevin Kling

Based on the book by Bernard Waber

Music by Richard Gray

Produced by special arrangement with Plays for New Audiences

Director  
HALENA KAYS

Music Director  
OTTO VOGEL

Choreographer  
KRISTEN WAAGNER

Assistant Directors  
KAITLYN FIELDS & ALONDRA RIOS

Production Stage Manager  
JAYCE LEWIS

Scenic Designer & Props Supervisor  
CHRIS WYCH

Sound Designer  
STEFANIE SENIOR

Costume Designer  
LIA WALLFISH

Stage Managers  
MACK FINKLEA & MICHAEL PETERSON

Lighting Designer  
LEVI WILKINS

Imagine U Artistic Director  
LYNN KELSO

*Lyle The Crocodile* is approximately 75 minutes with no intermission  
Audience Advisories: Haze, loud noises

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  
Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts  
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Box Office Phone: 847-491-7282  
[wirtz.northwestern.edu](http://wirtz.northwestern.edu)

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NAMT  
NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR  
MUSICAL THEATRE

Northwestern  
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'S NOTE

Lyle has shown me what it means to be generous, loving, absurd, and fully present in the moments of joy and heartbreak. I hope he will do the same for you and your family.

Be kind. Be helpful. Be silly. Enjoy the moment when you can.

- **HALENA KAYS, Director**

## SPECIAL THANKS

Ripley Spatafora, Tanya Palmer, Anthony Courser, Lynn Kelso, and all the amazing NU directors who have inspired the work you see on stage.

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## MUSICAL NUMBERS

<i>Something Is Always Happening</i> .....	<i>Hector, Ensemble</i>
<i>Help!</i> .....	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Primm, Joshua</i>
<i>The Letter</i> .....	<i>Hector, Mr. Primm</i>
<i>Pajamas</i> .....	<i>Joshua, Lyle</i>
<i>Likeability</i> .....	<i>Mrs. Nitpicker</i>
<i>Best Pet Around</i> .....	<i>Joshua, Neighborhood Kids</i>
<i>There's Something About Loretta</i> .....	<i>Joshua, Neighborhood Kids</i>
<i>Getting Up the Nerve</i> .....	<i>Ensemble</i>
<i>That Guy</i> .....	<i>Joshua, Neighborhood Kids</i>
<i>Lovey-Dovey</i> .....	<i>Mr. Grumps</i>
<i>Swampity Stomp</i> .....	<i>Hector, Lyle, Joshua, Ensemble</i>
<i>Likeability Reprise</i> .....	<i>Mrs. Nitpicker</i>
<i>Life in the Pen</i> .....	<i>Lyle, Crocodiles</i>
<i>City Snowfall</i> .....	<i>Ensemble</i>

## CAST

Piper Jean Bailey.....Mrs. Primm  
Rachael Dec.....Mrs. Nitpicker  
Nick Hollenback.....Ensemble  
Benjamin Jouras.....Hector P. Valenti  
Adam Lipson.....Mr. Grumps  
Anthony Milas .....Mr. Primm  
Sam Shankman..... Ensemble  
Leah Urzendowski .....Lyle  
Sarah Welford.....Joshua

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Director ..... Halena Kays  
Assistant Directors.....Kaitlyn Fields & Alondra Rios  
Music Director.....Otto Vogel  
Choreographer.....Kristen Wagner  
Scenic Designer & Props Supervisor.....Chris Wych  
Costume Designer .....Lia Wallfish  
Lighting Designer .....Levi Wilkins  
Sound Designer..... Stefanie Senior  
Production Stage Manager.....Jayce Lewis  
Stage Managers.....Mack Finklea & Michael Peterson

## IMAGINE U TEAM

Imagine U Artistic Director.....Lynn Kelso  
Student Assistants.....Natalie Rarick & Yiru Zhang

## ORCHESTRA

Reed 1.....Hannah Sobelman  
Trumpet.....Ethan Adams  
Bass.....Austin Aldrich  
Drums.....Leo McKenna





## COMPANY BIOS

**PIPER JEAN BAILEY (Mrs. Primm, she/her)** is delighted to be making her Wirtz musical debut with the amazing cast and crew of "Lyle Lyle Crocodile." An Evanston local, her professional credits include "It Girl" (Goodman Theatre), the Goodman MTI Showcase (Goodman Theatre), "A Day In the Death of Joe Egg" (Stage Left Theatre), and "Impenetrable" (Clockwise Theatre). Northwestern credits include "Be Mean to Me" (Wirtz), "Exit Strategy" (Wirtz), "Digging Up Dessa" (StuCo), and "With Woman" (StuCo).

**RACHAEL DEC (Mrs. Nitpicker, she/her)** is a Chicago based performer and a recent Northwestern alum (Class of 2023). Previous Wirtz credits include: "As You Like It" and the 91st Waa-Mu Show "A Peculiar Inheritance." During her time at Northwestern, she participated in numerous student theatre productions as a performer, dance captain, and choreographer. For four years she performed with Tonik Tap, Northwestern's student tap dance group. Enjoy the show!!

**MACK FINKLEA (Stage Manager)** is a stage manager and director based in Chicago. They moved here after graduating with a BFA in Directing from the Webster Conservatory for Theatre Arts in 2020. Their favorite companies they've worked with include the Muny, Repertory Theatre St. Louis, Summer Theatre of New Canaan, the Den Theatre, and the Plagiarists.

**NICK HOLLENBECK (Ensemble, he/they)** Nick Hollenbeck is a rising junior from St. Petersburg, Florida. Previous Wirtz credits include Professor/Pack in "Me... Jane", understudying Death and Evil in "Everybody", and he will be appearing as Sheldon in "The Prom" this fall. Additionally, he has appeared as Piragua Guy in Arts Alliance's "In The Heights" and Chuck in

WAVE Productions' "She Kills Monsters". He is also a playwright, director, and member of Asterik A Cappella and The Bix Musical Improv.

**BENJAMIN JOURAS (Hector P. Valenti, he/him)** is so excited to be returning to The Wirtz Center in this Imagine U production! Having previously taken the Wirtz stage as Death in Everybody and The Father in Blood Wedding, he is delighted to have the opportunity to to share this beautiful story. While not rollicking with reptiles, he can be found this summer performing at the Bristol Renaissance Faire.

**HALENA KAYS (Director, she/her)** is an Artistic Associate with the Neo-Futurists where she has directed the world premieres of Wildcats, Comfortable Shoes, Pop/Waits, 44 Plays for 44 Presidents, Burning Bluebeard, Daredevils, Daredevils Hamlet and Fake Lake. Selected Chicago directing credits: Endgame, Ivywild, Six Characters in Search of an Author (The Hypocrites); The Magic Play (The Goodman), Lord of the Flies (Steppenwolf); How a Boy Falls (Northlight Theatre); On Clover Road (American Blues Theater); Feast (part of a collaboration) with The Albany Park Theatre Project (The Goodman). Regionally: The Welkin (Nashville Story Garden), The Magic Play (The Olney Theater Center, The Actor's Theater of Louisville, Portland Center Stage and Syracuse Stage), Love Song (Nashville Story Garden), and Secretary (Nashville Rep's Ingram New Works Festival). Halena is a founding member of The Ruffians, an artistic associate with American Blues Theatre, former member of the Big Apple Circus Clown Care unit, and past AD of The Hypocrites and Playmakers Lab. Halena is an assistant professor of MFA acting and directing at Northwestern University. She has been nominated for

# COMPANY BIOS

Jefferson awards for Best Supporting Actress, Best Direction, Best New Work, and Best Production, and is a recipient of the prestigious 3Arts award. Proud member, SDC.

**JAYCE LEWIS (Production Stage Manager, he/they)** Jayce is excited to be returning to their TYA roots for Lyle the Crocodile! Previous NU credits include: Everybody (Barber), La Boheme (Cahn), and 5&Dime (AMTP). Chicago: Same Sects, Rocky Horror Picture Party (Haven), Jungle Jim (CPA Theatricals), and Once Upon A Mattress (Theo Ubique). Thank you to the wonderful Lyle team. Love you Maddison! [www.jaycelewisSM.com](http://www.jaycelewisSM.com)

**ADAM LIPSON (Mr. Grumps, he/him)** is so excited to be back in the barber this summer! He is a rising fourth-year at Northwestern majoring in Neuroscience & Theatre in the Music Theatre Certificate program. Recent credits include Something Rotten (Wirtz), and choreography for In The Heights (Arts Alliance). On campus, he is the Music Director of Extreme Measures A Cappella, and is a member of the Graffiti Dancers. Thanks to his family & friends for their love & support!

**ANTHONY MILAS (Mr. Primm, he/him)** Anthony Milas is very excited to be a part of Lyle the Crocodile at Northwestern University. He is a student at Northwestern majoring in Theatre with a double major in Computer Science. Outside of theatre, he loves tennis, painting, and fitness. Anthony wants to thank his Mom and Dad for always supporting his passions.

**MICHAEL PETERSON (Stage Manager, he/him)** is a rising Sophomore at Northwestern University. He is pursuing a Theatre major, Dance minor and Musical Theater Certificate. He is very excited to

be Assistant Stage Managing "Lyle the Crocodile!" He hails from the small town of Northampton, Massachusetts. Recent credits: Scenic Crew "MARC'ANTONIO E CLEOPATRA" (Haymarket Opera Company), Assistant Stage Manager "INDECENT" (Wirtz), Assistant Technical Director "CABARET", Assistant Lighting Designer "HEDDA GABLER", Actor (John) "FUN HOME" (Northwestern Student Theater)

**SAM SHANKMAN (Ensemble, he/him)** is delighted to be back at his alma mater to perform with Imagine U! Audiences might remember Sam from "Elephant and Piggie's 'We're in a Play!'", "...Frog and Toad," and "Balloonacy". Sam lives in Chicago and has worked with companies such as Drury Lane, Marriott Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Northbrook Theatre for Young Audiences, Blank Theatre Company, Citadel Theatre, and Young People's Theatre of Chicago. Love to Adam, and thanks to Lynn and Halena!

**LEAH URZENDOWSKI (Lyle, she/her)** Neo-futurist 2011-2021 "The Infinite Wrench", "The? Unicorn? Hour?", "Burning Bluebeard"; "Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind"; Theatre Wit "Mr. Burns"; 500 Clown "Trapped" "Frankenstein" "Macbeth"; TV/Film "Chicago PD", "Chicago Fire", "Operator", "Beats", "For Prophet". Choreography featured at Steppenwolf, Goodman, Neo-futurists, Hypocrites. Jeff Award winner for Choreography in Red Tape Theatre's "All Quiet on The Western Front. Teaching artist specializing in Physical Theatre and Clown, with piloted residencies at Georgetown University and USNA.

**OTTO VOGEL (Music Director, he/him)** is a rising senior in the Bienen School of Music studying Voice and Opera with

## COMPANY BIOS

Karen Brunssen. He has been music director, conductor, and orchestrator of many student theater productions, y: g t

**KRISTEN WAAGNER (Choreographer, she/her)** is a Chicago-based choreographer, director, and recent graduate of Northwestern, where she studied theatre and Asian American Studies. Recent projects include Islander, Spring Awakening, and STAR (Northwestern), The Steadfast Tin Soldier (Lookingglass), and Birthday Candles (Northlight). Many thanks to Halena and Mattea.

**LIA WALLISH (Costume Designer, she/her)** is a third-year MFA student and a costume designer. She was born in Israel and completed her mandatory military service before attending UCLA where she graduated with a BA in Theater in 2019. Her Northwestern credits include Indecent (costume designer), The Revolutionists (costume designer), and The Battlefield of Clara Barton (co-costume designer). Outside Northwestern credits include Julius Caesar (The Independent Shakespeare Company) and Twelfth Night (The Independent Shakespeare Company).

**SARAH WELFORD (Joshua, she/her)** is incredibly excited to return to Imagine U this summer! You may have seen her last at the Wirtz center as Willie in The Snowy Day or The Elder/Vera in Indecent. When she's not on stage as Joshua this summer, you can find her performing at the Bristol Renaissance Faire.

**LEVI WILKINS ( Lighting Designer, he/him)** studied Theatre and Production at Lincoln College in Lincoln, Illinois. Currently the lighting director at The Faith Community of St. Sabina. other past theater credits include A Raisin In The

Sun with Indiana University Northwest, Day of Absence and What to Send Up When it Goes Down and How Blood Go with Congo Square Theater, White with Definition Theater, Ruined and Whose Afraid of Virginia Woolf with Invictus Theater, The Mountaintop at Cardinal Stage Theater, Marie Antoinette and the Magical Negroes with The Story Theater, Is God Is with A Red Orchid Theater and Stew and London Road with Shattered Globe Theater. Along with many other festival, concert and dance performance design credits. Levi is a 3 time 2022 Regional Broadway World nominee and a Jeff Award Nominee. For more info about Levi visit [www.fresherlight.com](http://www.fresherlight.com).

**CHRIS WYCH (Scenic Designer, he/him)** has also been the Wirtz Center's Properties Supervisor for the past 15 years. When he isn't enjoying the chaos of props or designing the occasional Wirtz Summer show, he is having fun working with and designing for Magical Starlight Theatre in Naperville since 1998. His favorite productions include: "The Wizard of Oz" (2020 MST), "The Secret Garden" (2010 Wirtz), and any show where he gets to design and build a fun gadgety prop.



# 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.

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

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