

Northwestern | WIRTZ CENTER



Me... Jane

The Dreams and Adventures
of Young Jane Goodall

OCTOBER 21 – NOVEMBER 6, 2022

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

proudly presents

Me... Jane

The Dreams and Adventures of Young Jane Goodall

Adapted by PATRICK MCDONNELL and AARON POSNER

Music and lyrics by ANDY MITTON

Based on the book by PATRICK MCDONNELL

Orchestrations by WES D'ALELIO, JOE HOPPENWORTH, and SYDNEY ASTLE

Additional vocal arrangements by WES D'ALELIO

Director
RIVES COLLINS

Assistant Director
JOURNEY COLE

Production Stage Manager
PAYTON SHEARN

Choreographer
ANNA ROSENTHAL

Music Director
WES D'ALELIO

Lighting Design
SEOJUNG JANG

Dramaturg
JOOYOUNG CHO

Projections Designer
DWIGHT BELLISIMO

Set Designer
KAITLYN LANDRY

Sound Designer
WILLOW JAMES

Costume Designer
BEN KRESS

Imagine U Artistic Director
LYNN KELSO

Northwestern
arts circle
The Arts Together



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

Me...Jane: The Dreams and Adventures of Young Jane Goodall
is approximately 1 hour and 10 minutes.

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

Welcome to the theatre! On behalf of the hundreds of us who have worked on this production — actors, musicians, designers, technicians, crew members, faculty, staff, and especially students—we are thrilled to welcome you to this story about young Jane Goodall. We know that she became an adult whose research changed the way we view the relationship between animals and humans forever. She grew up to be a protector of animals and their habitats, as well as an advocate for the power of young people to make a difference. These facts invite us to wonder about her childhood, and fortunately for all of us, Dame Jane Goodall has been generous with her stories. Patrick McDonnell, a marvelous author and illustrator, has chronicled her childhood in the delightful picture book *Me...Jane*. Playwright Aaron Posner (a Northwestern Alum), along with composer-lyricist Andy Mitton, has adapted the book for the stage, which recently had its world premiere at the Kennedy Center. We were drawn to this story of a plucky young girl being raised by a single mother in an ordinary backyard immediately. Jane Goodall is adamant that in addition to her mother, the animals in her life (chickens, squirrels, and a very special dog) were her best teachers. She took the lessons she learned from the animals all the way to Africa, and was one of the first people ever to receive a PhD without having ever attained an undergraduate degree (it was a money thing). Some of those lessons, such as compassion for others, resilience, and a hopeful outlook, are the same benefits children receive from encountering live theatre. We are particularly thrilled that Northwestern's Office of Neighborhood and Community Relationships has partnered with the School of Communication and our neighborhood School District to make it possible for every third grader in District 65 (and their teachers) to see *Me ... Jane*. We hope you will have a great time at the play experiencing the delightfully curious world of a young Jane Goodall. Who knows? Maybe, like Jane, you too will be inspired to make a difference in your corner of the world. We leave you with this quote from "Dr. Jane" herself, **"I do have reasons for hope: our clever brains, the resilience of nature, the indomitable human spirit, and above all, the commitment of young people when they're empowered to take action."**

The Directing Team, Journey Cole and Rives Collins

CAST

Sami DeVries.....Jane
Jonyca Jiao.....Mum
Sean Zuckerman.....Rusty and others
Isadora Coco Gonzalez.....Maisie and others
Nick Hollenbeck.....Professor Scroop and others
Angelena Browne.....Hermione and others
Talya Braverman.....u/s Mum and Hermione
Natalie Tangeman.....u/s Maisie and Hermione
Nathan Hiykel.....u/s Professor Scroop

MUSIC TEAM

Wes D'Alelio.....Music Director
Joe Hoppenworth.....Assoc. Music Director
Sydney Astle.....Music Assistant
Ryan T. Nelson.....Music Supervisor

ORCHESTRA

Wes D'Alelio.....Keyboard 1/Conductor
Oliver Paddock.....Keyboard 2
Sofia Martinez.....Guitar
Nick Ziminski.....Bass
Nick Landon.....Drums

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....Rives Collins
Assistant Director.....Journey Cole
Choreographer.....Anna Rosenthal
Asst. Choreographer/Dance Captain.....Natalie Tangeman
Dialect Coach.....Linda Gates
Asst. Dialect Coach.....Talya Braverman
Production Stage Manager.....Payton Shearn
Dramaturg.....Jooyoung Cho
Set Designer.....Kaitlyn Landry
Costume Designer.....Ben Kress
Lighting Designer.....Seojung Jang
Sound Designer.....Willow James
Projections Designer.....Dwight Bellisimo

IMAGINE U TEAM

Imagine U Artistic Director.....Lynn Kelso
Education / Engagement Directors.....Ella Gatlin,
Natalie Rarick
Education / Engagement Team.....Marcel Iam, Clay
Lawhead, Yiru Zhang
Sensory Friendly Coordinator.....Kailey Morand

SPECIAL THANKS: Dave Davis, Lynn Kelso, Peter Anderson, the Wirtz staff, Munchkin and Maya D'Alelio, Jennifer Lewin, Stacy Beardsley, Betsy Quinn, Anne Lewinthal, Aziza Macklin, Jorge Alberto Silva, Pete Brace, Dean E. Patrick Johnson, Stephen Lewis, Dave Davis, Emily Kefferstan, Shayla Butler, Tanya Palmer, Henry Godinez, Roderick Hawkins, Kirsty Collins, Aaron Posner

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Jane and Jubilee.....	Jane, Mum
Animals, Animals, Animals!.....	Jane, The Pack
Far Distant Shore.....	Jane, Mr. Crouch, Mrs. Crouch
What Are You Going To Do Today?.....	Jane, Mum
The Hen House	Jane, Mum, Chickens
Be A Chicken	Maisie, Jane, Chickens
Be Still.....	Jane, Mum, Maisie, Chickens
The First Naysayers	Jane, Mum, Mr. Crouch, Mrs. Crouch
Spring Feast.....	Mum, Oscar, Calvin, Hermoine, Jane
The Nut Caper.....	Jane, Oscar, Hermoine, Calvin
The Second Naysayers	Mum, Jane, Bullies
Rusty	Mum, Jane, Rusty
Just A Dog.....	Professor Scroop, Jane, Rusty
Trust Your Instincts	Professor Scroop, Jane, Rusty
Just Like You	Jane, Rusty, Calvin, Maisie, Gigi
The Way to Africa	Mum, Oscar, Calvin, Hermoine, Jane
The Real Jane	Mum, Jane, The Pack

DRAMATURG'S NOTE

In 2014, when I was a freshman at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, South Korea, Jane Goodall gave a lecture called “Seeds of Hope.” After the lecture, as a student ambassador giving tours to visitors, every time we passed the auditorium, I tried my best to spread her message. I still remember how the eyes of students shined whenever I mentioned the name Jane Goodall, and told them of her work as a naturalist who dedicated her life to studying chimpanzees.

Diving into the world of Jane, however, I realized that I’ve been missing one of the most important facts about her – that her achievements began in her childhood days filled with patience and passion toward the natural world. Patrick McDonnell, thankfully, noticed this and transformed the story into a theatrical piece that every generation could enjoy. For about an hour, we’re part of Jane’s youth: we see her avid passion for animals growing, we see Jane realizing that just having a dream isn’t enough; instead, she has to do. In the end, we witness who this young girl with a limitless dream has become.

Watching Jane strive towards and later finally achieve her childhood “daydream,” it’s not just dreams of their own that ignite within young audiences -- it’s also hope. The poetic lyrics, joyful rhythms, and utopian impulse embedded in *Me...Jane* will guide them to keep hope alive. One of my favorite quotes from Jane is, “What humans evolved from is not nearly as critical as what they’re in the process of becoming.” Jane becoming “a note inside that harmony” by dancing with the pack, every one of our efforts put into making this multispecies performance, and particularly, our team’s awareness of the ecological footprints a single production leaves are all invaluable becomings for me. These are what make me willingly and playfully experience the “universal mystery” about which the cast sings. I truly hope this play encourages our audiences to plant “seeds of hope” in their own backyards.

JOOYOUNG CHO

COMPANY BIOS

SAMI DEVRIES (she/her/hers) is overjoyed to be representing Jane Goodall in this production of *Me...Jane!* She welcomes you to this wonderful world that we're bringing to life. Sami is a senior theatre major in the Music Theatre Certificate program, minoring in Political Science and finishing the Theatre for Young Audience Module. She wants to thank the most special animals in her life: Harley, Oedipus, and Dori, as well as many more! Trust your instincts, and enjoy the show!

JONYCA (RUOYIN) JIAO (she/her/hers) is thrilled to be playing Mum of the inspirational Jane Goodall in *Me...Jane*. She is a Senior from Xi'an, China, studying Theatre (with a certificate in Music Theatre), and Film Studies. Favorite credits include: *The Ballad of Mulan* (Mulan), *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* (AD), *Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land* (Director), and *The Butterfly Lovers* (Co-writer/Director). Special thanks to Rives, *Me...Jane* team, and everyone in her life who loves and supports her.

SEAN ZUCKERMAN (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. Favorite roles include Nick Bottom in *Something Rotten!* and Leonard Cohen/Others in *Joni: busy being free*. Special shoutout to his friends, family, and professors for their endless love and support!

ISADORA COCO GONZALEZ (she/her/hers) is a sophomore at Northwestern University, studying musical theatre and art history, and participates in many student organizations from acapella to dance groups. Favorite past credits include: *The Battle Fields of Clara Barton* at Northwestern University (Understudy), *Illest Dance* (Jenny) AMTP at Northwestern University, and *Something Rotten* (Bea) at Bexley High School. Coco would like to thank the production team for their dedication to this special project. Enjoy the show!

ANGELENA BROWNE (she/her/hers) is an actress from New Jersey and Saint Kitts & Nevis.

She is a second-year student at Northwestern studying Theatre, Business Institutions, and Integrated Marketing. She has appeared as Nana in *Imagine U's Last Stop on Market Street* and Lena in *City Kid: The Musical* at New Jersey Performing Arts Center. She is very thankful for her family and friends' support and the ability to work with all the amazing collaborators on this production.

TALYA BRAVERMAN (she/her/hers), a second year theatre major, is thrilled to be a part of *Me...Jane!* In kindergarten, Talya loved learning about gorillas and took a special interest in Jane Goodall's friend, Koko the gorilla, so she is ecstatic to be revisiting an integral part of her childhood through a TYA show. Outside of the production, Talya is one of two music directors for Northwestern's a cappella group Purple Haze.

NATALIE TANGEMAN (she/her/hers) is a Theatre Major with an emphasis in Theatre for Young Audiences. She started her performance career as a competitive Irish dancer. Since then, Natalie has participated in numerous professional and community theatre productions, including playing the Tattoo Woman in *The Last Stop on Market Street* at the Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts. On campus, Natalie works with Seesaw Theatre and Griffin's Tale Children's Repertory Theatre.

NATHAN HIYKEL (he/him/his), who plays Professor Scroop and other various characters, is ecstatic to be joining the cast of *Me...Jane*. Originally from Omaha, Nebraska, Nathan has previously taken up the roles of Curly in *Oklahoma!*, Tonton Julian in *Once on this Island*, and Mumford the Dragon in *The Last Stop on Market Street*. Nathan is excited to work alongside and learn from an incredible cast and crew, and wants to thank all the audience members for making *Me...Jane* a production he'll never forget.

RIVES COLLINS (he/him/his). In the spring of 2021, Rives Collins was made a Lifetime Fellow in the College of Fellows of the American Theatre in a ceremony broadcast from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. An acclaimed professional storyteller (ORACLE AWARD, National Storytelling Network), he

works with full faith that planting stories in the world is a bit like the work Johnny Appleseed once did. He is the co-author with Pamela Cooper of *The Power of Story: Teaching Through Storytelling*, proclaiming that, "Storytelling is at the heart of everything I do." An active stage director, he recently directed two world-premiere productions at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, both written by Northwestern colleague Laura Schellhardt. He works with an international community of artists, educators, and scholars to champion the cause of drama and theatre in the lives of young people.

WES D'ALELIO (he/him/his) is a senior from Boxford, Massachusetts majoring in theatre and music. He loves music directing, composing, and performing as a keyboardist, guitarist, and singer. Recent projects include *The Doors We Close* (MD), *Staring At The Dogwood Trees* (Co-MD), *Waa-Mu's A Peculiar Inheritance* (AMD), and *The Notebook* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. He'd like to thank his family Kimmie, Gary, Drew, Alec, and his dogs Munchkin and Maya for instilling his love for animals.

PAYTON SHEARN (she/her, they/them) is a recent graduate of Northwestern University, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre with a minor in Gender & Sexuality Studies and a module in Theatre Management. They are currently living and working in Chicago. Selected credits: *Men On Boats* (PSM, Northwestern University), *Merrily We Roll Along* (PSM, The Dolphin Show), *Mamma Mia!* (Producer, Arts Alliance), *Spamalot* (ASM, Lovers & Madmen). Special thanks to her friends, family, and mentors for everything, always.

JOOYOUNG CHO (she/her, they/them) is a first-year PhD student at Interdisciplinary PhD in Theatre and Drama (IPTD) at Northwestern. Before joining IPTD, she served as an actor, educator, dramaturg, director, designer, and interpreter/translator in numerous productions, and as a reviewer/editor for theater publications in South Korea. Her research interests include multi-/interspecies performance, animal plays, animal liberation movements as a performance/ritual, ecodrama(turgy), and the ecopolitics of contemporary theatre and performance that illuminate humans' mutual enmeshment with the

nonhuman world.

KAITLYN LANDRY (any) is a 4th year Stage Designer at Northwestern University that originates from Montreal, Canada. Has currently designed the sets for multiple Northwestern productions, which includes: *Tomas and the Library Lady*, *Something Rotten*, and *Men on Boats*. They are known for having an active imagination, a brain filled with random animal facts and a goal where their work impacts our newer generation of audience to do great things.

BEN ARGENTA KRESS (he/him/his) is a third-year Costume Design MFA candidate at Northwestern. Northwestern credits include *The Battlefields of Clara Barton* (co-designer Lia Wallfish). Recent regional credits include: Baltimore Center Stage: *Wasted*, *Antigone*, *Twelfth Night*, *Endgame*. Everyman Theatre: *Everything is Wonderful*, *Wait Until Dark*, *Outside Mullingar*. Rep Stage: *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, *H2O*, *Technicolor Life*. Maryland Ensemble Theatre: *Sweat*. Washington Stage Guild: *Bloomsday*. Stillpointe Theatre: *Spring Awakening*. Ben previously received a BA in Theatre and Psychology from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio.

SEOJUNG JANG (she/her/hers) recently designed *Mulan* in 2021.

WILLOW JAMES (he/him/his) is a Chicago-based artist and teacher, dedicated to new works, telling Black stories, and theatre as activism. He is the Resident Sound Designer at Artemisia Theatre, and represented by Dream Team Talent Agency. Wirtz Center: *Late*, *A Cowboy Song* (2022 MFA Collab). Chicago: *1919* (Steppenwolf Theatre), *Botticelli in the Fire* (First Floor Theater). Regional: *Magnolia Ballet* (Alleyway Theatre). Be kind. willow-james.org

DWIGHT BELLISIMO (he/him/his) is a theatre artist hailing from the San Francisco Bay Area. He enjoys working within all mediums of theatre including acting, directing, design and playwriting. He is currently studying Projection Design at The Theatre School at DePaul University.

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