

Northwestern | WIRTZ CENTER CHICAGO

THE OREGON TRAIL

AUGUST 2 - 4, 2024

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

THE OREGON TRAIL

By BEKAH BRUNSTETTER

Director
SETH BOCKLEY

Scenic Designer
CHRIS WYCH

Costume Designer
LIA WALLFISH

Lighting Designer
DYLAN REYNO

Sound Designer
JUSTIN CAVAZOS

Production Manager
VALERIE TU

Stage Manager
KEVIN VILCHEZ

THE OREGON TRAIL runs approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

THE OREGON TRAIL is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

THE OREGON TRAIL received its world premiere in September 2015 at Flying V.
Amber Jackson, Director / Jason Schlafstein, Producing Artistic Director
THE OREGON TRAIL was developed during a residency at the Eugene O'Neill Theater
Center's National Playwrights Conference in 2013.
Preston Whiteway, Executive Director / Wendy C. Goldberg, Artistic Director
Developed at the Lark Play Development Center, New York City

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

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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. 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.

MORE ON THE TRAIL

The Oregon Trail by Bekah Brunstetter is inspired by the legendary video game of the same name, played by generations of American grade school students from the 80s through the 00s.

The most famous version, and the one played by the character “Jane” in the play, can be [enjoyed here](#). Watch out for cholera!

For a deeper dive into our show’s nostalgia for all things late last century, check out sound designer [Justin Cavazos’ 90s playlist](#).

And to learn more about the real Oregon Trail, check out a [recent podcast](#) that tackles the true history of one of America’s most colorful, tragic, hopeful and arduous chapters.

For those holding a paper version of this program, QR codes are below.



**The Oregon Trail
Game**



90's Playlist



Podcast

Happy trails, one and all.

-The OT Creative Team

CAST

Jane.....	Lori Navarrete
Mary Anne.....	Alex O'Shea
Billy/Matt.....	Kyle Ringley
Game.....	Sharon Miles
Then Jane.....	Libby Lee
Then Mary Anne.....	Ali Foley
Clancy.....	Avi Aharoni

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....	Seth Bockley
Scenic Designer.....	Chris Wych
Costume Designer.....	Lia Wallfish
Lighting Designer.....	Dylan Reyno
Sound Designer.....	Justin Cavazos
Stage Manager.....	Kevin Vilchez

COMPANY BIOS

AVI AHARONI (Clancy, he/him)

has been fortunate to work with companies such as: The Guthrie Theater, Park Square Theatre, Six Points Theater, Dark & Stormy Productions, Theater Latté Da, Playwrights' Center, Pillsbury House Theatre, Theatre L'Homme Dieu, Transatlantic Love Affair, as well as Off-Road Shakespeare in Seattle, The Guild Theater in Tel Aviv, among many others. He has also had three separate productions of his solo show, "My Father's Son: Searching for Identity" and currently writing a follow-up piece.

SETH BOCKLEY (Director, he/him) is a director, playwright and adapter. He also writes screenplays, stories, and poetry, and teaches at the University of Chicago. sethbockley.com

JUSTIN CAVAZOS (Sound Designer, he/him)

is a Latino composer, producer, sound designer, and songwriter from Harlingen, Texas, currently based in Chicago. His recent work includes composing original music for "The Tempest" at Northwestern University and sound designing and performing music for storytelling events with Chicago-based company, 2nd Story. Justin received his BA in Music from Stanford University and is currently a MA candidate in Sound Arts and Industries at Northwestern University.

ALI FOLEY (Then Mary Anne, she/her)

Ali Foley is a proud MFA Acting student at Northwestern University. She earned her BFA from Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester Virginia and has traveled the country as an actor/musician ever since. Favorite roles include Laura in The Glass

COMPANY BIOS CONT.

Menagerie, Melody in Bad Jews, and Feste in Twelfth Night. Next, she will perform in the improv show, "Pilot Season" at the Annoyance Comedy Theatre. Love to FoFam and AWWA! www.ali-foley.com

LIBBY LEE (Then Jane, she/her) is a first year MFA Acting student at Northwestern. She is Korean-American, and grew up in Las Vegas and Seoul. Before attending Northwestern, she trained at Circle in the Square Theatre School in New York. Before that, she majored in Industrial Design at Seoul National University and worked as a kitchen designer. She dedicates this performance to Alan Langdon. Find out more about Libby at www.libbylee.net.

SHARON MILES (Game, she/her) is an actor, writer, and director. Originally from Mississippi, Sharon moved to Chicago to pursue an MFA in Acting at Northwestern University. Theatre credits include: "Little Shop of Horrors" (Audrey 2), "9 to 5 the Musical" (Violet), "Pipeline" (Nya), "All the Way" (Fannie Lou Hamer), "Our Town" (Stage Manager), "Beauty and the Beast" (Mrs. Potts), and "Hairspray" (Motormouth). Sharon seeks to utilize theatre to influence character development, empower young artists, and community engagement.

LORI NAVARRETE (Jane, she/ella) is an interdisciplinary artist currently based in Chicago, Illions. Lori's work is an epistemological and ontological exploration of identity, gender, race and sexuality that centers the experiences of womxn of color. Lori is currently working on her first solo work, "Abue Lipa" in collaboration with

Glass Half Full Theater Company in Austin, Texas. Her recent acting credits include "Mud" (Northwestern), "Yamel Cucuy" (GHFT) and "Saving Salvador" (Placid Productions), and "Love & Death" (HBO). She earned a bachelor's degree in Theatre Performance and Art History from St. Edwards University.

ALEX O'SHEA (Mary Anne, she/her) is an EMC/SAG-E actor based in Chicago and New York. She is currently a first-year MFA Actor at Northwestern University. She graduated from Wesleyan University in 2019. Recent credits include "Hamlet: a collision" (Northwestern University), "Mouse Trap" (Teatro Latea), "JOB" (Lighthouse Series at Soho Playhouse), "The Skin of Our Teeth" (Berkshire Theater Group), and a guest star role on FBI: Most Wanted. Endless love and gratitude to her family and friends. www.alex-oshea.com.

DYLAN REYNO (Lighting Designer, he/him) has been working as a lighting designer and technician in Chicago and the surrounding area for the past decade. He is excited to be designing at Northwestern University again for the first time since graduating with a B.A. in Theater in 2018. He has previously worked with other wonderful theater groups from around Chicago including Theatre Above the Law, Collaboraction, Mudlark Theatre, Chicago Dramatists, and Silk Road Rising

KYLE RINGLEY (Billy/Matt, he/him) is a first year MFA Actor at Northwestern University. Selected credits include Joseph Garcin in

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“No Exit” (Northwestern), Joel Chandler-Harris in “Annice, A Slave” (Northwestern), Angelo in “Measure for Measure” (Randolph-Macon College), Black Stache in “Peter and the Starcatcher” (R-MC), Vladimir in “Waiting for Godot” (R-MC), and Jordan Berman in “Significant Other” (R-MC). EDUCATION: B.A. Randolph-Macon College '23.

KEVIN VILCHEZ (Stage Manager, he/him) is thrilled to return to the Wirtz. Previously seen as the Stager Manager for “The Great Sea Serpent,” Kevin is a Chicago based Stage Manager and alumni of Columbia College Chicago. Previous select credits include ASM for Non-Equity Jeff Awards 2024, ASM for “Seagulls” (Oak Park Festival Theatre), Deck Crew Cover for “Lucy and Charlie’s Honeymoon” (Lookingglass Theatre), ASM for “Rent” (Porchlight Music Theatre) & Run Crew for “Il Corsaro” (Opera Festival of Chicago).

LIA WALLFISH (Costume Designer, she/her) is a Chicago-based Jewish-Israeli costume designer and visual artist. She has an MFA in Theater from Northwestern University and a B.A. in Theater from the University of California Los Angeles. Her Northwestern credits include Dracula (costume designer), Working (costume designer), Indecent (costume designer), The Revolutionists (costume designer), and Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (costume designer). Outside Northwestern credits include Julius Cesar (The Independent Shakespeare Company) and Twelfth Night (The Independent Shakespeare Company).

CHRIS WYCH (Scenic Designer, he/him) brings creativity and passion to each production. Alongside his scenic design work, he has been the Wirtz Center’s Properties Supervisor for the past 16 years. When he isn’t managing the chaos of props, he enjoys working with Magical Starlight Theatre in Naperville, in various roles he has cherished since 1998. His favorite productions include “The Wizard of Oz” (2020, MST), “The Secret Garden” (2010, Wirtz), and any show where he gets to create and build a fun, gadgety prop.

YOUR SEAT IS WAITING!



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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 August 31, 2023.

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