

# STUDIO

# **ABOUT STUDIO**

Studio Theatre is a longstanding Washington cultural institution dedicated to the production of contemporary theatre. We are a community of artists and audience members who believe in the power of theatre to help us understand the world, engage with some of the most important ideas and issues of the day, and affirm our common humanity.

Over 40 years and more than 350 productions, Studio has grown from a company that produced in a single rented theatre to one that owns a multi-venue complex stretching half a city block, but we have stayed committed to our core distinguishing characteristics: deliberately intimate spaces; excellence in acting and design; and seasons that feature many of the most significant playwrights of our time. Each season, we present a diverse roster of thought-provoking contemporary plays, featuring local, national, and international artists. We also invest in the

incubation and development of new work and nurture the next generation of arts leaders. Studio is a values-focused organization that pursues artistry and inclusion, and brings characteristic thoughtfulness and daring to our efforts, onstage and off. We are committed to anti-racism and make a concerted effort to proactively dismantle barriers that have excluded people from joyful participation in our art form.

Rooted in our mission to foster a more thoughtful, empathetic, and connected community, Studio strives to welcome a wide and diverse audience. Our community engagement efforts include access and affordability initiatives, a growing community partner program, free student matinees, and a commitment to opening up our building as a hub for our neighborhood and city. In all that we do, Studio endeavors to make an essential contribution to the vitality of our nation's capital.



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# FRIENDS,

Weddings are charged events. Attendees step out of the everyday, gather with a multigenerational community of friends and strangers, and participate in a rite of passage suffused with emotion. They are a universally experienced cultural phenomenon, and we all have potent memories attached to them—weddings that were moving, excruciating, beautiful, hideous, old-fashioned, newfangled. Weddings make great fodder for a play.

The production marks the DC debut of playwright Bryna Turner. Bryna is a Studio kind of writer—savvy about structure, comedy, subtext, and revelation of character—who gives us here a wedding that is both recognizable and reshaped for today.

The production team bringing Bryna's play to vibrant life is notably full of artists with deep ties to Studio: director Tom Story, who has acted at Studio numerous times and made his directorial debut here a decade ago; Holly Twyford, who is working on Studio production number thirteen; former full-time staff members Luciana Stecconi, Deb Thomas, and John Hall, each of whom have worked on dozens and dozens of shows here; and ML Geiger, Danielle Preston, Dina Thomas, and Emily Kester, and all returning to work on their third or fourth Studio production.

These veterans are joined by an almost equally large group of artists making their Studio debuts. All of them are generous, warm-hearted people who have filled this building with good vibes for weeks. I'm excited to share their work with you.

Yours,

**DAVID MUSE**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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# <mark>2023-2024</mark> SEASON SPONSORS

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The Honorable Ann Brown

Susan and Dixon Butler

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Mark Tushnet and Elizabeth Alexander

Amy Weinberg and Norbert Hornstein

Robert H. Winter\* and Carole Winter

<sup>\*</sup>In memoriam

# STUDIO THEATRE

**DAVID MUSE**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

REBECCA ENDE LICHTENBERG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**PRESENTS** 

AT THE WEDDING

BY BRYNA TURNER

DIRECTED BY **TOM STORY** 

At the Wedding is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

Produced by Lincoln Center Theater New York City, 2022

At the Wedding was developed, in part, at TheatreSquared as part of the Arkansas New Play Fesitval



The scenic, costume, lighting and sound designers in LORT Theatres are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE

SET DESIGNER
LUCIANA STECCONI

COSTUME DESIGNER

DANIELLE PRESTON

LIGHTING DESIGNER MARY LOUISE GEIGER

SOUND DESIGNER

JANE SHAW

PROPS DESIGNER **DEB THOMAS** 

MOVEMENT COORDINATOR BRITTA JOY PETERSON

DRAMATURG
ADRIEN-ALICE HANSEL

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
JOHN KEITH HALL\*

DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION
JEFFERY MARTIN

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR RHIANNON SANDERS

CASTING BY

ALAN FILDERMAN

UNDERWRITTEN BY ALBERT G. LAUBER & CRAIG HOFFMAN

# **SETTING**

# A wedding in Northern California

CAST



CARLO



LEIGH CAMERON SILLIMAN\*



CARLY



**ESENIA** 



ELI JAMIE SMITHSON\*



VICTOR JONATHAN ATKINSON\*



MARIA HOLLY WYFORD\*

# **UNDERSTUDIES**

CARLO ALLISON FITZGERALD

**CARLY/EVA** KORINN WALFALL

**ELI/VICTOR KEITH RUBIN**  **MARIA** ALISON BAUER

LEIGH KATE KENWORTHY



\*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in EQUITY the United States.

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# **PLAYWRIGHT**



BRYNA TURNER's plays include At the Wedding, Bull in a China Shop, Phases of the Moon, and How to Separate Your Soul from Your Body (in ten easy steps!). Honors include Lincoln Center's Emerging Artist Award in Theatre and the Laurie Foundation's Theatre Visions Award. Their work has been produced. developed, or presented by American Conservatory Theater, About Face Theatre, Aurora Theatre, Clubbed Thumb, Diversionary Theatre, LCT3, National Theatre, TheatreSquared, WP Theater, and others. They are an alum of Clubbed Thumb's Early Career Writers Group, WP Theater's 2018-2020 Lab. and a MacDowell Fellow. They are currently under commission from Lincoln Center Theater, B.A.: Mount Holvoke College, MFA: Rutgers University. brynaturner.com





**TOM STORY** is an actor, director and teacher living in Washington, DC. He has appeared in over 75 plays in Washington, DC; New York; and around the country. He has directed at Studio Theatre, Round House Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Group, Imagination Stage, Adventure Theatre MTC, and American University. Tom has been nominated for multiple Helen Hayes Awards and is a Fox Foundation Fellow, a Cabinet member of Studio Theatre, and a graduate of Duke University and The Juilliard School. He studied acting with Michael Kahn and directing with Jov Zinoman.

**DINA THOMAS** (Carlo) is a DC theater artist and real estate agent. Her Studio Theatre credits include Crv It Out and 2.5 Minute Ride. Her Off Broadway credits include The Metromaniacs at Red Bull Theater. Clever Little Lies at Westside Theatre, and Tribes at Barrow Street Theatre. Regional credits include Much Ado About Nothing and The Metromaniacs at Shakespeare Theatre Company; The Chameleon and The Wanderers at Theater J: Everything You Touch at Contemporary American Theater Festival; The Metromaniacs at The Old Globe: See How They Run and 10x10 New Play Festival at Barrington Stage Company; and Bad Jews (BroadwayWorld Award, Best Actress), I'm Gonna Pray For You So Hard, and Miss Witherspoon at Unicorn Theatre. She has an MFA in Acting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a B.A. in Theatre from Binghamton University. On social media @tinydthomas and @dbtrealtor (Instagram).

**EMILY KESTER** (Carly) is an actor based in Washington, DC. Her previous Studio credits include The Hard Problem and Edgar & Annabel. Her regional theatre credits include The Trip to Bountiful, Silent Sky, and A Christmas Carol at Ford's Theatre; Maz and Bricks at Solas Nua: Detroit '67 at Signature Theatre; Labour of Love at Olney Theatre Center; The Last Schwartz at Theater J; Noises Off and The Revolutionists at Everyman Theatre: Equus at Constellation Theatre Company; and The Little Mermaid and The BFG at Imagination Stage. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and holds a BFA in Acting. On social media @emkester (Instagram) emilykester.com

JAMIE SMITHSON (Eli) is thrilled to be working with Studio Theatre for the first time. His Off Broadway credits include Arcadia, Persuasion, and Fall River Fishing with Bedlam, and The Comedy of Errors and Romeo and Juliet with The Acting Company. Some of his favorite regional credits include Sense and Sensibility with Bedlam at Folger Theatre, Newsies at Arena Stage, Cake Off

at Signature Theatre, *The Wanderers* at Theater J, *Boeing Boeing* with No Rules Theatre Company, *Twist Your Dickens* with Second City at the Kennedy Center, and *Fly By Night* at 1st Stage. He has also worked with Shakespeare Theatre Company, Mosaic Theater Company, Ford's Theatre, Imagination Stage, Round House Theatre, Everyman Theatre, Portland Center Stage, American Repertory Theater, and Guthrie Theater, among others. He has been nominated for two individual Helen Hayes awards for Best Actor and received his MFA in acting at Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University.

HOLLY TWYFORD (Maria) is thrilled to be back for her thirteenth show at Studio. and her first collaboration with Tom Story. Previous Studio productions include The Steward of Christendom, The Desk Set, The Road to Mecca, Contractions, and Cloud 9, all of which earned her Helen Hayes Awards nominations, and The Shape of Things, for which she received a Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Lead Actress. She has performed in close to eighty productions in theaters in the Washington, DC area including Arena Stage, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, and Signature Theatre. She has been nominated for multiple Helen Haves Awards and is a five-time recipient. She was honored with Shakespeare Theatre Company's Emery Battis Award for Acting Excellence for her portrayal of Anna in Harold Pinter's Old Times. She is proud to be a charter member of Studio Theatre's Cabinet, a Ford's Theatre Associate Artist. and a Lunt-Fontanne Fellow. Also a director. she recently directed Becoming Dr. Ruth at the Village Theatre.

**CAMERON SILLIMAN** (Leigh; they/she) is an actor, singer, mover, and art maker. Their other theatre credits include *Fun Home* at TheaterWorks Hartford, *Twelfth Night* at The Center at West Park, and *Ghost the Musical* at Winnipesaukee Playhouse. Cameron can also be seen on an episode of the television

series New Amsterdam. She is also lead singer and co-founder of the NYC-based rock band Granite Garden. On social media @sillyman106 and @granitegardenmusic (Instagram).

YESENIA IGLESIAS (Eva) is an actor and educator from Bayamón, Puerto Rico. This is her Studio Theatre debut. Regional credits include: POTUS: Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive at Arena Stage; Dance Nation at Olney Theatre Center; Daphne's Dive and Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity at Signature Theatre; Kid Prince and Pablo at The Kennedy Center; Love's Labour's Lost at Folger Theatre; The Legend of Georgia McBride at Round House

Theatre; and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* at Constellation Theatre Company, among others. She currently teaches at Howard University. Yesenia holds an MFA from the University of Washington Professional Actor Training Program. On social media @ye iglesias (Instagram)

JONATHAN ATKINSON (Victor; he/him) is an actor and podcaster. His theatre credits include Daphne's Dive at Signature Theatre, The Mortification of Fovea Munson at the Kennedy Center, and Ragtime and A Christmas Carol at Ford's Theatre. Jonathan is co-host of ¡UY QUE HORROR! A Latinx Horror Movie Podcast. On social media at @jonnyeliot and @uyquehorror (Instagram, Twitter, TikTok).

# **PRODUCTION**

**LUCIANA STECCONI**'s (Set Designer) previous Studio Theatre credits include John Proctor is the Villain, Kings, The Effect. Hedda Gabler, Cloud 9, Contractions, and many more. Recent regional designs include: Fat Ham at Huntington Theatre Company and Alliance Theatre, The Art of Burning at Huntington Theatre Company and Hartford Stage, Witch at Huntington Theatre Company. Faith Healer at Barrington Stage Company, Antonio's Song at Goodman Theatre, Anna in the Tropics at Bay Street Theater, Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express and Antonio's Song at Milwaukee Rep, Macbeth at Merrimack Repertory Theatre, and A Wind in the Door at The Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences. She has designed for Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Round House Theatre, Signature Theatre, Theater J, Everyman Theatre, Olney Theatre Center, Mosaic Theatre Company, and the

Contemporary American Theatre Festival, among others. She is an Associate Professor in Scenic Design at Emerson College. Luciana holds an MFA in design from Brandeis University. lucianastecconi.com

**DANIELLE PRESTON** (Costume Designer) is a costume designer based in Washington. DC previous Studio Theatre credits include Fat Ham, Clyde's, and P.Y.G. or the Mis-Edumacation of Dorian Belle. Recent regional credits include Blues for an Alabama Sky at Barrington Stage Company, The Sensational Sea Mink-ettes at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Passing Strange and Penelope at Signature Theatre, A Nice Indian Boy at Olney Theatre Center, Locomotion at Children's Theatre Company, School Girls; or, The African Mean Girls Play and The REALNESS at the Hangar Theatre, and Quamino's Map at Chicago Opera Theater. Danielle received the 2022 OPERA America Tobin Director-Designer

# **PRODUCTION**

Prize, the William R. Kenan Jr. Fellowship in Costume Design with The Kennedy Center, and the A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute Fellowship in Costume Design. She holds an MFA in Costume Design from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She is a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. On social media @danielleprestondesign (Instagram) daniellepreston.com

MARY LOUISE GEIGER (Lighting Designer) is a lighting designer for theatre, dance, and opera. At Studio Theatre, she designed Chimerica, Invisible Man (Helen Hayes Award), and Time Stands Still. On Broadway, she designed The Constant Wife for the Roundabout Theatre Company, Her recent Off Broadway credits include Spiritus/Vigil's Dance at Rattlestick Theater, and Partnership and Becomes a Woman at Mint Theater Company, Regionally, her work includes Last Night and the Night Before at Steppenwolf Theatre Company; Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill at Syracuse Stage; and Leonora, la maga y le maestra with Double Edge Theatre at the experimental theatre festival in Porsgrunn, Norway. Last May, she premiered Christopher Wheeldon's new ballet From You Within Me for New York City Ballet. She trained at the Yale School of Drama and teaches at NYU. mlgeiger.com

JANE SHAW (Sound Designer; she/her) is making her Studio Theatre debut. New York credits include The Wanderers at Roundabout Theatre Company, The Fears at Signature Theatre Company NYC, Men on Boats at Playwrights Horizons, Actually at Manhattan Theatre Club, Measure for Measure at Theatre for a New Audience, and productions with the Mint Theater Company, National Black Theatre, Repertorio Español, New York Theatre Workshop, and Bedlam. Regional credits include A Christmas Carol (composer) at Guthrie Theater; Our Daughters, Like Pillars at Huntington Theatre Company: The Engagement Party at Hartford Stage and Geffen Playhouse; and The Railway Children (co-composer/lyricist) at Northern Stage. She has also worked at Cleveland

Play House, The Old Globe, Mark Taper Forum, Two River Theater, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Dorset Theatre Festival, American Conservatory Theater, American Repertory Theater, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, and Long Wharf Theatre. She is the recipient of a Drama Desk Award, Connecticut Critics Circle Award, Henry Award, Bessie Award, Meet the Composer Grant, and NEA/TCG Career Development Grant. She is a proud member of TSDCA (Theatrical Sound Designers and Composers Association) and USA Local 829. janeshaw.com

**DEB THOMAS** (Props Designer) was the Props Director at Studio Theatre from 2009 to 2019. Studio credits include set design for Terminus, assistant set design for Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, and props design for Fat Ham, Heroes of the Fourth Turning, John Proctor is the Villain, and Pass Over. among others. Additional credits include Confederates, Monumental Travesties, Bars and Measures, The Till Trilogy, Marys Seacole, Birds of North America, and Eureka Day at Mosaic Theater Company; and The Tale of the Allergist's Wife and Freud's Last Session at Theater J. Upcoming work includes Metamorphoses at Folger Shakespeare Theatre. She was a sculptor and sculpture consultant for TLC's DC Cupcakes, a set designer for the Washington Bureau of TV Tokyo, and did the original set design for Discovery Channel's Puppy Bowl. In addition to working for all national networks, her work includes production design for Dolley Madison and art direction for Alexander Hamilton (both PBS American Experience), as well as set design for Discovery Channel's Moments in History, "Jamestown: Against All Odds."

BRITTA JOY PETERSON (Movement Coordinator; she/they) is a director and choreographer who organizes constellations of relations on stage, page, and screen. BJP's recent work has been seen at The Kennedy Center, Dance Place in DC, The Floor in New York, Sibu International Dance Festival in Malaysia, Performance Mix 33 in New York, Lyric Repertory Company in Utah, Arts and

Society Conference in France, Imagination Stage in Maryland, Triskelion Arts in New York, Sonics Immersive Media Lab in England, Paramount Theatre in Minnesota, as well as on NBC, CBS, and in independent short and feature films. BJP is a co-founder of the performance platforms "Exquisite Frame" in DC and "SH\*T GOLD" in Washington and has designed award-winning dance curricula for American University and Western Wyoming Community College. BJP holds an MFA from Arizona State University and is based in Lenapehoking/Brooklyn. brittajoypeterson.com

ADRIEN-ALICE HANSEL (Dramaturg; she/her) is the Literary Director at Studio, where she has dramaturged the world premieres of Good Bones. John Proctor is the Villain. I Hate it Here. Queen of Basel, No Sisters, I Wanna Fucking Tear You Apart, Red Speedo, Dirt, Lungs, and The History of Kisses, among others, as well as productions of Love, Love, Love; Fat Ham; Fun Home: Enalish: Heroes of the Fourth Turnina: Flow; 2.5 Minute Ride; Translations; Curve of Departure; Wig Out!; Straight White Men; and Bad Jews (twice), among others. Prior to joining Studio, she spent eight seasons at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, where she headed the literary department and coordinated project scouting, selection, and development for the Humana Festival of New American Plays. She is the co-editor of eight anthologies of plays from Actors Theatre and editor of 12 editions of plays through Studio. Adrien-Alice holds an MFA from the Yale School of Drama.

JOHN KEITH HALL (Production Stage Manager) has stage managed many productions at Studio including Espejos: Clean, Fun Home, English, Bad Jews, Choir Boy, Cock, Water by the Spoonful, Tribes, The Habit of Art, Torch Song Trilogy, 4000 Miles, In the Red and Brown Water, The History Boys, and The Road to Mecca. Other DC area credits include Ain't No Mo'. Where We Belong, Shipwreck, The Peculiar Patriot, Gloria, Familiar, Hir, An Octoroon, and The Nether at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company; The

Producers, Mary Poppins, Sweeney Todd, Annie, The Crucible, On the Town, Matilda the Musical, Cabaret, and Beauty and the Beast at Olney Theatre Center: Show Way at the Kennedy Center TYA; Ain't Misbehavin', Soon, and West Side Story at Signature Theatre. His regional credits include over 40 productions as Resident Stage Manager at the Barter Theatre as well as Shadowlands Stage, Virginia Musical Theatre, and Contemporary American Theatre Festival.

**ALAN FILDERMAN** (Casting) has previously worked at Studio, having cast Choir Boy and Wig Out! here. Broadway credits include 33 Variations, Grey Gardens, Marie Christine, Master Class (original production), and Once on This Island (original production). Off Broadway credits include Fiorello!, Inner Voices, Langston in Harlem, The Boys in the Band (2010). Dessa Rose. Here Lies Jenny, A New Brain, A Beautiful Thing, Three Tall Women, From the Mississippi Delta, Song of Singapore, and The Sum of Us. Regional credits include work with The Philadelphia Theatre Company, The O'Neill (plays and musicals), Sundance Institute Theatre Program (musicals), Weston Theater Company, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley and many other theatres across the country. Film credits include Ice Age, Broadway Damage, and Anastasia. Alan's work as a director includes productions of Godspell; You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown; and Runaways. Alan is an Adjunct Professor at NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

# PRODUCTION STAFF

UNDERSTUDY SUPPORT CLEOPATRA MAVHUNGA

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ASSISTANT SCENIC DESIGNER

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# **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

ROBERT CURINGTON JR., BASMA HOUBBI, AUBREI PACHECO, AARYN JOHNSON, MELIK EDRIS



# 2023-2024 APPRENTICE PROGRAM



# THE 2023-2024 CLASS OF APPRENTICES

(left to right): Ranteá Thompson, Di Carey, Tyandria Jaaber, Mae Mironer (standing), Alexa Locarno, Josh Morales, Cleopatra Mavhunga (standing), Malaika Fernandes, Lucas Gomes, Niara Richards, and David Plumer

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Studio Theatre's Apprentice Program is designed to nurture a new generation of theatre leaders. Since its creation in 2006, the program has provided on-the-job training for over 150 early-career directors, production and technical staff, and arts administration professionals in development, marketing and communications, finance, and general management. Apprentices spend a full season at Studio, during which time they receive a weekly stipend and live together in Studio housing a few blocks from the theatre. With their dedicated support, our Apprentice Program sponsors are helping Studio make this professional development experience possible.

## **PROGRAM SPONSORS**

SUSAN AND DIXON BUTLER SARI HORNSTEIN AMY WEINBERG AND NORBERT HORNSTEIN

With additional support from Paul M. Angell Family Foundation, Share Fund, and Jeffrey Bauman and Linda Feinberg



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# MEMBERS MAKE THINGS HAPPEN AT STUDIO

Inside Studio is a dedicated group of individuals who contribute to the success of Studio's mission to share the best in contemporary theatre to our city.

# **INSIDE STUDIO MEMBERS INVEST IN**

#### **BOLD ARTISTRY**

With the addition of the new Victor Shargai Theatre brings the opportunity to enhance our storytelling, design, and performance creativity in a newly renovated and fully adaptable space.

#### **COMMUNITY**

Studio opens its doors to students and underserved neighborhoods through our Student Matinee program.

#### **NEW WORK**

Through Studio R&D, Studio invests in the cultivation and creation of new work and emerging artists. Starting with Rachel Bonds's *The Wolf Twins* in 2014, Studio has produced at least one world premiere each season, with the most recent examples being the 2022 world premiere of Kimberly Belflower's *John Proctor is the Villain* and the Studio-commissioned world premiere *Good Bones* by Pulitzer Prizewinning playwright James ljames.

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Jelani Alladin in *Choir Boy*. Photo credit: Igor Dmitry.

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Julia May Jonas and David Muse at the 2023 ADC Dinner.

The Artistic Director's Circle is a dynamic group of individuals who support the artistic vision of Studio Theatre. Members understand the value of producing powerful contemporary work in intimate spaces and invest in Studio's innovative projects and initiatives while receiving unparalleled access to the art. Members of the Artistic Director's Circle receive exclusive opportunities to experience our work unlike any other of our giving circles.

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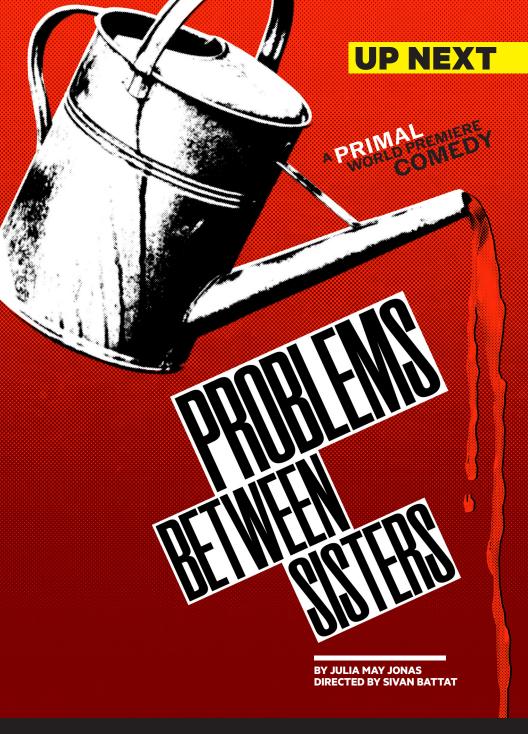
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