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DIRECTED BY SARAH JOHNSON & JONATHAN MICHAELSEN

WELLS-METZ THEATRE



IU Theatre + Dance acknowledges and honors the Indigenous communities native to this region and recognizes that Indiana University Bloomington is built on Indigenous homelands and resources. We recognize the myaamiki, Lënape, Bodwéwadmik and saawanwa people as past, present and future caretakers of this land.

### LIVE PERFORMANCE

The mission of the Department of Theatre, Drama and Contemporary Dance is to advance the art, scholarship and appreciation of theatre and dance and its place in society. We pursue this mission collectively and as individuals through theatrical productions, scholarship and publication, presentation of our work in national and international venues, formal instruction and individual mentoring.

The Department of Theatre, Drama and Contemporary Dance is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre and is a member of the University/ Resident Theatre Association and United States Institute for Theatre Technology.

### LIVING IMPACT



**THEATRE & DANCE** 

## Message from the producer



Greetings and welcome to the IU Theatre and Dance 2024-2025 production season!

It is an honor and with great enthusiasm that

we share our IU Theatre & Dance season with you!

Live theatre and dance create a community that shares our most important stories. Continuing in our tradition of bringing exciting, meaningful, and entertaining work to our audiences, this season will encourage critical dialogue and engage viewers to consider these stories as opportunities of empathy and reflection.

Live performance is an opportunity to express the zeitgeist of our world. We hope that you will join us for many additional post-show discussions and opening night post-performance cookies in the lobby. These provide a space for dialogue with others about the work our students and faculty produce.

This year we welcome a new generation of graduate and undergraduate students that will directly contribute to the artistry and craft. We'd like to take a moment to welcome many international and nationally recognized guest artists to our season — from choreography to directing to designing. We'd also like to welcome Professor Raymond Sage, who joins our faculty as Head of Musical Theatre Voice and Musical Theatre Voice Pedagogy and Visiting Assistant Professor Grant Goodman in Acting and Directing. We also welcome Carolynn Stouder as our Program and Project Director and Michelle Moore as Props and Scenic Arts Specialist.

We take a moment to bid a fond farewell to Professor Nancy Lipschultz and Dr. Eleanor Owicki on their retirement, two fantastic faculty members in our community who are moving on to wonderful new chapters. We thank them for their expertise and service to our department and especially to our students.

Thank you to our patrons, donors, Theatre Circle members, and of course YOU, the audience experiencing our students' work at this performance! Please visit our website or pick up a brochure to learn more about how vou can become a member of the Theatre Circle, and to find out more about our upcoming productions, student independent projects, guest artists, student organizations, and class offerings. We look forward to having you join us for all our live performances this year and wish you our very best for the 2024-2025 academic year!

Linda Pisano Chair and Producer



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#### PRESENTS

### TOO MUCH LIGHT MAKES THE BABY GO BLIND (30 PLAYS IN 60 MINUTES)

Created by Greg Allen Written by Indiana University Students

DIRECTORS	Sarah Johnson & Jonathan Michaelsen
STAGE MANAGER	Mitchell Ward
ASST. STAGE MANAGERS	Cas Wilson & Samwell Rose
SCENIC DESIGNER	Oliver Stark
SCENIC CHARGE	Yu Wendy Wu
LIGHTING DESIGNER	Mads West
SOUND DESIGNER	Kyle Dickinson
COSTUME DESIGNER	Ava Francisco
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Rylee Creed
HEAD ELECTRICIAN/	Reed Simiele
PROGRAMMER	
PROPS MANAGER	Oliver Stark
DRAMATURG	Sheridan Schreyer

The video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited. Do not use cell phones, pagers, or other devices that may emit sound or light.

#### WELLS-METZ THEATRE | MARCH 6-14, 2025

## Cast

- **ENSEMBLE** Evan Anderson
- **ENSEMBLE** Harley Babbitt
- **ENSEMBLE** Bryce Cain
- **ENSEMBLE** Katelyn Dunivan
- **ENSEMBLE** Elliot Straka-Kitch
- **ENSEMBLE** Natalie Nunez
- **ENSEMBLE** Brynn Schwartzman
- **ENSEMBLE** Mikaylah Taylor
- **ENSEMBLE** Matt Trzaskus
- **ENSEMBLE** Sarah Warf

#### TOO MUCH LIGHT MAKES THE BABY GO BLIND IS SPONSORED IN PART BY:

A special thanks to the Theatre Circle Board Members for their additional financial support on our 2024-2025 theatre productions.

## Cast



#### EVAN ANDERSON (Ensemble)

(he/him) is a Senior Theatre and Drama B.A. student. He's very proud of the projects he's done since at IU, including: Average College Lesbian Experience (Independent Project—Co-

Creator), Love of a Pig (University Players—Co-Director), and Orlando (Ensemble). Too Much Light also falls into that same special place, and he is beyond proud of the work the ensemble and creative team has put into the show. Outside of rehearsals and performances, Evan enjoys rock climbing and working with University Players.



### HARLEY BABBITT

(Ensemble)

(he/him) is a Junior at IU studying Media Advertising and Theatre & Drama. He is thrilled to be making his MainStage debut with *Too Much Light*! Past productions

include: Love of a Pig, Lolita Play, Into the Woods, and The Sound of Music. He also enjoys performing in Boy in the Bubble sketch comedy here at IU. Harley would like to thank Christopher Murphy, Renea Butler, Joyce Lazier, and every director who has made him love theatre over his career.



### BRYCE CAIN

(Ensemble)

(he/him) is a Senior from Anderson, Indiana studying Theatre and Drama as well as Interactive and Digital Media. He is thrilled to be making his IU MainStage performance debut! For

IU Theatre: Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde (Assistant Director), Something Rotten! (Sound Run Crew), F\*\*king A (Stage Deck Crew). For University Players: Clue: On Stage (Wadsworth). For Collins LLC Theatre: The Princess Bride (Count Rugen).



### KATELYN DUNIVAN

(Ensemble)

(she/her) This is Katelyn's 3rd and final MainStage production at Indiana University! Prior credits include: Orlando, and Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde. This past

Fall Katelyn debuted her original play Average College Lesbian Experience as an Independent Project alongside co-creator Evan Anderson. She is grateful to Indiana University for allowing her many opportunities to grow as a theatre artist. She hopes you all enjoy the unique theatrical experience that has been created in this production!



#### ELLIOT STRAKA-KITCH (Ensemble)

(she/her) is a Sophomore Theatre and Drama B.A. student. She is thrilled to make her MainStage debut in *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind* as an ensemble member.

Recent show credits include: Average College Lesbian Experience (Guy), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Theseus), Clue (Mrs. White), and Les Misérables (Eponine).



#### NATALIE NUNEZ (Ensemble)

(she/her/ella) is a Junior at Indiana University, pursuing a Law and Public Policy major with minors in Theatre and Spanish. She previously appeared on IU MainStage as Jasmine in

Pipeline and took on the challenge as a swing in F\*\*king A. She now joins the ensemble of *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind*. Beyond the stage, she showcases her versatility as a host on WIUX radio, curating the dynamic show *Knockout Blends*. Looking to the future, Natalie envisions combining her passions for law and theatre with plans to attend law school after graduation.



#### BRYNN SCHWARTZMAN (Ensemble)

(she/her/hers) is a Sophomore majoring in theatre and public relations and she is from Long Island, NY. This is the first MainStage production that Brynn is involved in here

and she is so excited to make her debut on the IU stage. Other productions she has been involved in include: Gruesome Playground Injuries (Kayleen), Romeo and Juliet (Lady Capulet), Little Shop of Horrors (Audrey), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Helena), Legally Blonde (Chutney Windham/Ensemble).



#### MIKAYLAH TAYLOR (Ensemble)

(she/they) is a Junior at IU studying acting under the Theatre and Drama B.A. program. They are also vice president of Black, Brown, and Beige Theatre Troupe. She has previously

acted in She Kills Monsters as Agnes and Steve, and the independent project, Average College Lesbian Experience, as Mrs. Stevenson, Tyler, and Greg. This is their first MainStage production at IU. She is excited to present this Neo-Futurist production.



### MATT TRZASKUS

(Ensemble)

(he/him) is a Freshman from West Lafayette, Indiana studying English and Theatre with a minor in Film Production. This is his MainStage debut. Matt fell in love with theatre when he

was a little kid, and hasn't been able to look back since. He loves *The Notebook*, Cherry Pepsi, and long walks on the beach. Matt would like to thank his family, friends, and all the other hands that helped lift him to the place he is today.



#### SARAH WARF (Ensemble)

(she/her) is a Junior Arts Management Major with a Minor in Theatre. For IU Theatre: 1970s College Sex Comedy (Vulva Puppet), Ordinary Days (Deb); with University Players:

Urinetown (Penelope Pennywise) as an IP, Firebringer (Snarl Puppet, Jemilla U/S, Chorn U/S) as an IP. She is also Director of Communications for the University Players and Co-President of Boy in the Bubble Comedy. She would like to give a big thanks to the cast, crew, directors, and creative team!

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Greg Allen Mitchell Ward

## Artistic team



#### **GREG ALLEN** (Special Guest)

Greg Allen is the Founding Director of The Neo-Futurists and creator of *Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind (30 Plays in 60 Minutes)*, which has been running

50 weeks a year in Chicago since 1988 and in New York since 2004. He is also author of such plays as The Last Two Minutes of the Complete Works of Henrik Ibsen, The Strange and Terrible True Tale of Pinocchio (the Wooden Boy) As Told By Frankenstein's Monster (the Wretched Creature), Sleeping with the Prince of Darkness: The Imagined Pillow-Talk of FBI Agent John O'Neill, A Child's History of Bombing, H2O, and K., his award-winning adaptation of Kafka's The Trial. His collaboration The Complete Lost Works of Samuel Beckett As Found In An Envelope (partially burned) In A Dustbin In Paris Labeled "Never to be performed. Never. EVER! Or I'll Sue! I'LL SUE FROM THE GRAVE!!!" has had 12 sold-out award-winning international productions, and his legendary production of all 9 acts and 7 hours of Eugene O'Neill's Strange Interlude inspired hecklers and immediate standing ovations at the Goodman Theatre's 2009 O'Neill Festival, Mr. Allen teaches at the University of Chicago, DePaul University, Actors Theatre of Louisville, the National Theater Institute at the Eugene O'Neill Center, The Neo-Futurarium in Chicago, and in residencies all over the world.



#### RYLEE CREED

(Technical Director)

is a first-year M.F.A. Theatre Technology Candidate from Magnolia, Arkansas. She received her B.F.A. in Theatre with a focus in Tech and Design from Southern Arkansas

University. Collegiate credits include: A Year With Frog and Toad (Scenic Design), and Fiddler on the Roof (Scenic Design/ATD). Professional credits include Beauty and the Beast, Kiss Me, Kate, The Wedding Singer, Murder on the Orient Express, and Beautiful: The Carole King Musical (Scenic Art). Rylee would like to thank her boyfriend, Ben, and her sister, Pan, for being her biggest cheerleaders. She and her many splinters hope you enjoy the show.



#### **KYLE DICKINSON**

(Sound Designer)

is a Sophomore undergrad at Indiana University, majoring in Theatre & Drama. This is his second opportunity to design for Indiana University theatre, previously doing

the lighting design for *Measure for Measure*. When he's not in Lee Norvelle, you can find him enjoying or creating music.



#### AVA FRANCISCO

(Costume Designer)

is an second-year M.F.A. in Theatrical Costume Design candidate at Indiana University. Her recent design credits include this production of *Too Much Light Makes* 

The Baby Go Blind, Reefer Madness, Customaries, and Sentient Beings. She has worked at theaters such as Santa Fe Opera as a Costume Shop Administrative Apprentice and at Alley Theatre as a costume intern and over-hire technician. She is passionate about bringing theatrical productions to life through detailed and dynamic costuming.



#### SARAH JOHNSON (Director)

(she/her) is a dramaturg and scholar. Her research focuses on intercultural theatre, new play development, and dramaturgical methodologies. She is

Assistant Professor of Dramaturgy and Head of the M.F.A. Dramaturgy program at Indiana University Bloomington.



#### JONATHAN MICHAELSEN

(Director)

served as chair of the Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance at Indiana University from 2004 to 2018. During his tenure

as chair, Michaelsen oversaw a period of major growth in the department, including the addition of ten faculty and staff positions; the inclusion of the Contemporary Dance Program into the Department; and a \$15 million dollar renovation to the IU theatre complex, which included the addition of a new studio theatre and movement rehearsal space. He was instrumental in re-establishing the M.F.A. program in playwriting at Indiana University and spearheaded the creation of the Musical Theatre B.F.A. and the Costume Technology M.F.A. degrees. He also created the Indiana University Summer Theatre and Premiere Musicals: Developing New Works of Musical Theatre at Indiana University.



SAMWELL ROSE (Devising Consultant, Assistant Stage Manager)

(they/them) is a current first-year M.F.A. Director. Originally from Colorado, they hold a B.A. in Theatre Arts (performance) and minor in Russian from

Lewis & Clark College. While they love all kinds of theatrical work, their passion is collaborative devised theatre. At IU, Samwell Assistant Directed Sanctuary City (multi-city tour, KCACTF Region 3 Finalist). In their spare time, Samwell loves spending time with their dog, exploring beautiful nature spots, and drinking boba.



#### **SHERIDAN SCHREYER** (Dramaturg)

(she/her) is a theatre artist, scholar, and administrator whose work centers dramaturgy as a consent-based practice and explores intimacy as performance. She is an

M.F.A. Dramaturgy candidate at Indiana University Bloomington and holds a B.F.A. in Music Theatre with a Minor in Psychology from The Hartt School at The University of Hartford. Dramaturgy credits include: Measure for Measure, New Moves/New Directions, Reefer Madness, Reconstructed/Reframed (IU Theatre + Dance), and Forever Plaid (IUST). sheridanschreyer.com

#### **REED SIMIELE**

(Head Electrician/Programmer)

(he/they) is excited to work on "Too Much Light". It is his first time working as a Head Electrician at Indiana University. He comes from New England and the DC Area prior to being in Indiana. Later in the season he will be designing "Echoes", the Senior dance show, and hopes you also come to that but for now he hopes that you enjoy the show Too Much Light!





#### OLIVER STARK

(Scenic Designer/Props Manager)

(he/him) Special thank you to all the trans and nonbinary people who were involved in this production. This show wouldn't be here without you.

MITCHELL WARD (Stage Manager)

is a Midwest manager & director making his I.U. debut. Recently, he managed *The Break; A New Rock Musical* and *Alex Gold; Stuck on Repeat* for Constellation

Stage & Screen, where he directed *The True Story* of the 3 Little Pigs last Fall. Chicago credits include: *The Displaced, Kiss* (Haven Theatre); *Romeo &* Juliet (Teatro Vista); *Muses* (Water People Theatre); *Flamingo & Decatur* (Block St. Theatre Co.). Mitch was the assistant director for *Fun Home* (Kansas City Rep) and *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Arts Club, Vancouver B.C.). He looks forward to managing *The King's Wife* and *Polkadots* for Constellation this Spring. Mitchelljward.com



MADS WEST (Lighting Designer)

(they/them) is an Award Winning Lighting Designer from Benton, Arkansas in their final year of their M.F.A. program at IU. *Too Much Light* is their final design at IU and has been such a fantastic experience to end their student career with. After graduating, Mads hopes to move to the East Coast to continue their career as a freelance lighting designer. They'd like to thank their family and friends for their support during this chapter of their life. More at @ madswestlighting on Instagram.



CAS WILSON

(Assistant Stage Manager)

(they/them) is a Sophomore studying Theatre and Media. This is their first time working a theatre production and they are excited to make their theatre debut as

an Assistant Stage Manager. In their free time they enjoy fiber arts, reading, and video games. Cas is from Crown Point, Indiana.

**YU WENDY WU** (Scenic Charge)



## UP NEXT AT IU THEATRE & DANCE:

A fabulously fun musical adaptation of the iconic movie and novel, this electric show is jam-packed with girl power, passion, and–of course–lots and lots of pink!



## **Production team**

Director of Production Ansley Valentine

Production Manager Trish Hausmann ‡

Scenic & Paint Charge Yu Wendy Wu

Props Manager Oliver Stark

Department Technical Director Jeff Baldwin

Technical Director Rylee Creed

**Deck Crew** Alexandra Dreszer Parker Strickland

Costume Shop Manager Cee-Cee Swalling

Costume Designer Ava Francisco

Wardrobe Supervisor Maura Phipps

Wardrobe Crew Isabella Falletta Abbie Grace Levi

#### **Costume Studio Employees**

Ava Francisco Isabel Barredo Ryan Yauger Beth Wallace Chloe Williams Ella Smith Ian Rodriguez Jocelyn Payne Kate Lopez Kenzie Jaye Laughlin Laura Rong Lil Campos Madelyn DeBrine Maura Phipps

Costume Studio Supervisor Cee-Cee Swalling Visiting Assistant Professor of Costume Design Katie Cowan Sickmeier

Assistant Professor of Costume Technology Heather Milam

Lighting Supervisor Elizabeth G. Smith

Head Electrician/Programmer Reed Simiele

Lighting Designer Mads West

Light Board Operator Olivia Bocchieri

#### Lighting Studio Employees

Ashley Ĉhristensen Kyle Dickinson Sophie Frank Nicholas Gwin Isa James Sparrow Mansfield Hephzibah Oluwajobi Reed Simiele Mads West

Sound Studio Supervisor/ Sound Designer

Andrew Hopson

#### Sound Engineers

Grace Phillips Airen Pike Tyler Marrie

#### Sound Department Crew

Jojo Chen Matthew Kohl Bri Stoneburner Zachary Duigou

#### **Board Operators**

Josh Ingle McDaniel Fontus Kathryn Hammett

Properties & Scenic Art Supervisor Michelle Moore Scenic Studio Supervisor Sean Dumm

#### Scenic Studio Employees

Victor Beeler Abby Bilson Nick Boisvert Gabi Buckels K'Nyia Bumpers Ash Cossey Rylee Creed Sofie Fareez Sophie Frank Morgan Hemgrove Sean Holloway Anna Keys Frankie Martinez Cat Richardson Oliver Stark Yu Wendy Wu

#### Run Crew

Isabella Falletta Alex Corrigan Jake Cassidy



## **Faculty and staff**

Leraldo Anzaldua Jeff Baldwin Stafford C. Berry, Jr. Robert Burden Beatrice Capote Dr. Ana Candida Carneiro Selene B. Carter Christian Claessens Lucy Dodd Sean Dumm Ray Fellman Grant Goodman D.I Grav Allen Hahn Trish Hausmann Scott Hogsed Dr. Andrew Hopson Dr. Sarah Johnson Dr. Jennifer Lale Reuben Lucas Kristin Mann

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### **Administrative staff**

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Program & Project Director Carolynn Stouder House Manager Scott Hogsed



## The novel is more of a whisper, WHEREAS THE STAGE IS A SHOUT? –Robert Holman

ROBERT HOLMAN WAS AN ACCLAIMED BRITISH DRAMATIST. HE WROTE MANY PLAYS, INCLUDING GERMAN SKERRIES, MUD, AND A BREAKFAST OF EELS. HE ALSO WROTE FOR TELEVISION AND RADIO AND WAS A RESIDENT DRAMATIST AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE AND WITH THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY.



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