

**The Theatre School at DePaul University Comedy Arts  
Class of 2025 Presents:**



Sarah



[ally]



Sydney



Ella



Cully



Justin



Luke

# SEEKING REPRESENTATION

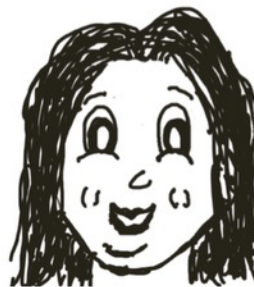
*A GRADUATE SHOWCASE*



Melina



Joseph



Audrey



TUCKER



isha



Ava



WILL



**Melina Arevalo** BFA | [melinaarevalo087@gmail.com](mailto:melinaarevalo087@gmail.com)

Melina is a comedian, writer, producer, and musical theater performer with a passion for the absurd and uplifting underrepresented voices in comedy. Melina is originally from Miami, Florida and attended New World School of the Arts High School for musical theatre. In Chicago, she has been able to perform and produce for comedy clubs and theaters all over the city including but not limited to The Annoyance Theatre, iO Theater, The Lincoln Lodge, and Cornservatory. Honing her craft as a creator during college has been transformative as she developed works like *The Musical at the End of Times*, *Sans Titre*, and *Appease the Algorithm*. Melina served as a lead on the technical theater board for two years for the MessFest Comedy Festival held at The Annoyance Theatre and thrives in producing roles. She loves singing with her acapella group Take Note DePaul, good food, and the TV show *Scrubs*.

Instagram: [@\\_somello\\_](https://www.instagram.com/_somello_)



**Sydney Breedlove** BFA | [sydney.breedlove@gmail.com](mailto:sydney.breedlove@gmail.com)

Sydney Breedlove is a Chicago-based comedian and writer who hails from The Sunshine State, where she lived on a gator farm. After escaping said gators, and moving to Chicago, she found a love for stand-up, and began producing her own solo shows, starting with *Eat Shit* at The Annoyance Theatre in 2023. She also performed in the inaugural Bergamot Comedy Festival held at the Crow in Santa Monica, as one of ten comics chosen for the Best College Comic Showcase. Sydney's comedy aims to uplift and highlight southern femme voices through her satirical point of view. She also wishes to warn everyone about the gators.



**Ava Cairl** BFA | [avacairl@gmail.com](mailto:avacairl@gmail.com)

Ava is a comedy writer, performer and musician from New York. Credits at The Theatre School include two Annoyance Theatre residency shows *R.O.A.D.* (cast) and *Stand Together* (cast). Ava has also written and performed three filmed solo stand up specials *Late Bloomer*, *Look At Me Now* and *I'll never lie again*. Ava was Head of Social Media for MessFest in 2024 and has also worked with Table 7 Strategy on their social media marketing team. They've also found great joy in stage managing comedy shows and thrives in technically difficult shows.



**Ella Carey BFA** | [ellacohencarey@gmail.com](mailto:ellacohencarey@gmail.com)

Ella is a comedian, playwright, and actor. Originally from Portland, Oregon, her strengths as a writer come through in her whimsical and surrealistic work that tackles issues of gender and sexuality. Recently her productions *She Told Me She Loved Me* and *The Next Day She Died* ran at The Annoyance Theatre, and she was an ensemble member of the sketch show *It's Great To Be Transgender*. Additionally, her production *Boy Village* ran at Bughouse Theater. In 2022, she was selected to participate in the Young Playwrights Festival at Lakewood Theatre Company in Oregon. Currently, she is a regular performer in the monthly variety show *Funny Funny Fashion* at The Lincoln Lodge. She is an alumni of both the Young Professionals Company at Oregon Children's Theater, and the Portland-based improv troupe Impulse. Ella loves hiking and working in the summer as a backpacking and wilderness survival counselor specializing in outdoor education.

Instagram: [@ellacohencarey](https://www.instagram.com/ellacohencarey)

**Will Cruetz BFA** | [will.cruetz@gmail.com](mailto:will.cruetz@gmail.com)

Will is a screenwriter, editor, and comedian who has a love of off-kilter comedic performance. His current magnum opus is his performance as Tony in *Alpha and Omega: The Parody Musical* for 2024's Messfest at The Annoyance Theatre. His hobbies include sparring and playing soccer. In his spare time, he is desperately trying to figure out what in God's name a writing "process" is.

**Audrey Gold BFA** | [audreymorgan358@gmail.com](mailto:audreymorgan358@gmail.com)

Audrey is a comedian, writer, producer, director and performer. Beginning their comedy career in the Bywater of New Orleans, Audrey grew up trying to convince bars to let them perform at open mics, despite being 13. After moving to Chicago, Audrey found their love for what goes on behind the scenes. Gold co-wrote and starred in *Too Big for the City*, a two-person sketch show exploring fatness and tallness through the lens of queer friendship. As a producer with Playground Theater, Gold has produced and hosted, *Left Unattended*, a weekly college variety show featuring stand up and improv by and for an audience of peers for the past two years. Audrey has directed sketch processes, solo shows, digital shorts, and theatrical length productions. In addition to creating, Audrey has a love for teaching theater -- constructing and implementing an adaptive theater curriculum for children with physical disabilities.





**Luke Herman** BFA | [lukeherman17@gmail.com](mailto:lukeherman17@gmail.com)

Luke is a comedian from South Carolina and attended the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. He is the host and producer of *Funny Funny Fashion* at the Lincoln Lodge, a monthly comedy fashion variety hour, and performs stand up at several clubs across Chicago. He is a mainstage performer at The Annoyance and has written for several original sketch shows including *Everything You Are About to See is Normal and Okay, Too Big for the City*, and *Sans Titre* to name a few. Luke has been a fixture of several marketing teams, including a Marketing Intern at iO Theatre, the Co-Director of Marketing for MessFest Comedy Festival, and this year serves as MessFest's Marketing Director. He is an experimental filmmaker and video artist under the alias Fake Blonde. When Luke is not making stuff, he is playing dress-up, writing in his journal, and asking invasive questions to Uber drivers.

Instagram: [@fakeblonde12345](https://www.instagram.com/fakeblonde12345)



**Justin Jacobs** BFA | [justinjacobs8888@gmail.com](mailto:justinjacobs8888@gmail.com)

Justin (they/them) is a satirist, composer, lyricists, and music director from West Palm Beach, Florida. Their work seamlessly combines the camp and feels of musical theatre with the twisted sense of humor they house in their head. Justin is the writer, composer, and lyricist of two original musicals, *Birds Aren't Real: The Musical* and *Witch, Please: A Gay Romp in 1692 Salem*, both of which emphasize their comedic exploration of themes such as queer love, authoritarianism, echo chambers, self-radicalization, and the corruptive influence of fear on American politics. Justin served as the Head of Music Direction for MessFest 2025, and has directed a number of successful improv shows in the Chicago area.



**Cully Burns Jacobson** BFA | [cullyb.jacobson@gmail.com](mailto:cullyb.jacobson@gmail.com)

Cully is a comedian and actor from Evanston, Illinois and is an alum of Northwestern University's National High School Institute for Theatre Arts and Film. Cully has performed and produced a handful of shows throughout Chicago, working closely with The Annoyance Theatre and iO Theater. He's produced and hosted his own scandalous variety show *Smut Til You Nut*, which has ran at numerous venues. Additionally, he's a co-producer and director on the improvised biopic *What Really Happened*, devising an original longform structure with the ensemble. Cully's not afraid to take to the stage too, as seen in sketch shows such as *Help! Let me Out RN!* at The Annoyance, and *Wizards Rule* at iO Theater. He continues to hone his skills at iO and Second City training centers. When Cully is not performing, he's exploring other expressions of art & storytelling through digital media and game design.



**Sarah Metz BFA** | [sarahannemetz@gmail.com](mailto:sarahannemetz@gmail.com)

Sarah is a comedian, writer, visual artist, and producer from Los Angeles, California. Sarah has written, produced, and performed in shows at venues across Chicago, including The Annoyance Theatre and iO Theater. Sarah is a performer in the anchor show at this year's MessFest, along with performing in several other shows within the festival. Notably as a producer, she is this year's Co-Executive Producer of MessFest, and co-producing a weekly variety show, *Left Unattended*, with Playground Theater. Sarah's writing and visual art has been featured in BitRake, an online humor publication. While her heart lies in satiric works and television writing/production, Sarah truly has a deep reverence and passion for the artform of comedy. Her passion for comedy and writing deepened in high school, completing a comedy writing intensive in Columbia University's Pre-College Program and winning a Scholastic Art & Writing Award for her dissection of the evolution of satire.

**Ally Montgomery BFA** | [allymmontgomery26@gmail.com](mailto:allymmontgomery26@gmail.com)

Ally is a queer comedian and creator from Columbia, South Carolina. Ally is a graduate of the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. While at DePaul, Ally has written, performed, and produced shows across Chicago including at The Annoyance, iO Theatre, Lincoln Lodge and Second City, such as solo shows *A Night of Ally* and *chronicAlly online*. Ally is a multifaceted creative with strengths in writing, directing, and visual design. With a deep love for spreadsheets, Ally has also worked in producer and administrative roles, including the Co-Executive Producer for MessFest Comedy Festival 2025 at The Annoyance Theatre and as the Comedy Arts Program Assistant where she designed a brand identity and social media presence for the program while photographing dozens of comedy shows. Ally graduates with a second major in Communications and Media with a focus on Fandom and Participatory Culture, and a Dance minor.

**Isha Pati BFA** | [isha@patifamily.com](mailto:isha@patifamily.com)

Isha is a writer, comedian, and musician from the Bay Area. Credits at The Theatre School include *Lysistrata* (asst. director), the MessFest Anchor show *Help! Let Me Out RN!* (cast), *Everything You're About To See Is Normal And Okay* (cast), and *Asian Americans 4 U* (co-producer/cast), the last two of which were picked up for multi-week runs at The Annoyance Theatre. Isha has worked as a creative research associate at Paramount Pictures and as Head Script Supervisor for MessFest 2025. She has written for the humor publications Points In Case and DNAtured, and is most notably the editor-in-chief of BitRake Humor. In her free time she enjoys running, hiking, and journaling pensively by large bodies of water.



## Comedy Arts



**Tucker Privette** BFA | [tuckerprivette@gmail.com](mailto:tuckerprivette@gmail.com)

Tucker is a writer, actor, and director, who's had a history of creating theatre and film in both Chicago, as well as within the midlands of South Carolina. Tucker's most recent work is a production titled *Blow The Man Down!*: an original farce that he has co-written, directed, and made an appearance in. Currently, Tucker serves as a staff writer and visuals editor for DePaul's comedy publication BitRake Humor. Tucker dedicates his extra time to practicing circus arts and physical comedy, honing his skills in juggling, acrobatics, clowning, and anything with a good sense of childishness and whimsy. When not working on comedy, Tucker likes to spend his time reading sci-fi, pondering, and trying new baking recipes!



**Joseph Walsdorf** BFA | [josephwalsdorf@gmail.com](mailto:josephwalsdorf@gmail.com)

Joseph is a comedian, satirist, producer, and creator from Woodstock, Illinois whose work includes sketch, stand-up, and radio production. His comedy is thoughtful, honest, and uplifting. His satire stems from a deeply held belief that no institution is free from criticism, and a desire to laugh at people who make more money than him. Joseph created and hosted *Big Joe's Stand-up Showcase* and *Big Joebot's Stand-up Showcase*, two satirical, period piece shows that took aim at free speech and artificial intelligence respectively. As the creative producer of *Bitrake Radio* Joseph led a writing team to broadcast a new episode weekly. *Christlike*, his solo show about his experience with Catholicism, recently debuted at MessFest 2025. He has been the assistant artistic producer of the Chicago comedy festival MessFest, served as Comedy Arts Program Assistant for two years, and can recollect a frankly ridiculous number of Muppet names on demand.



# The Theatre School Class of 2025

*as of January 2025*

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## **BFA Acting**

Jack Baust  
Celine Brady  
EG Canzano  
Shai Chase  
Quintin Craig  
Brooklyn Durs  
Joe Eichorst  
Lea Fleck  
Maeve Gomez Bradler  
Cookie Isenberg  
Eric Tyler Jacobson  
Pedro Arturo Jimenez  
Preston Khalil  
Nathan Kirk  
Noah Lash  
Melissa Marie  
Josh Mayo  
Tyshaun Meekie  
Beric Orion  
Zofia Ossowska  
Evan Ozer  
Alex Perez  
Camille Perry  
Ta'liyah Rashelle  
Nicholas Ryan  
Robbyn T. Simone  
Madelyn Strasma  
Aspen Tyson  
Madelyn Strasma  
Shane Veloski  
Erik J. Ventura

## **BFA Costume Design**

Michelle Escobedo  
Anna Finerty  
Spencer Harrigan  
Anika Splettstoeszer

## **BFA Costume Technology**

Grace Koehler  
Lim Park  
Riley Trzeciak

## **BFA Dramaturgy/Criticism**

LeeAnne Nakamura  
Laura Rodriguez Sierra  
Omari Sloan  
Joan Starkey

## **BFA Lighting Design**

Leah Donovan  
Nathan Lesperance  
Karina Osbourne

## **BFA Playwriting**

Isaiah Boozer  
Gracie Crone  
Joseph Frantzen  
Perse Grammer  
Chris Lawson  
Iona McGregor  
Ethan Venzon  
Connor Yokley

## **BFA Scene Design**

Nora Brooks-Slauter  
Raquel Dwight  
Chee Johnston  
Devin Meseke

## **BFA Stage Management**

Bruno Diaz Miranda  
Dixon Kaufman  
Alix MacDonald

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### **BFA Theatre Technology**

James Doolittle  
Nora Evison  
Alex Klose  
Ben Melton  
Aubrey Pierce  
Avery Spellmeyer  
Faith Stevens  
Eli Wallow

### **BFA Theatre Arts**

Yasmeen Abiad  
Emma Burkey  
Daniel Driessen  
Casey Freeman  
Stephanie Heinz  
Alena Hernandez Modesto  
Sarah Johnson  
Delaney Kibler  
Alice Heemang Kim  
Camille Korte  
Kacey Lindeman  
Sarah Meek  
Camelia Patron  
Molly Sharfstein  
Gwendolyn Theis

### **BFA Theatre Management**

Kenna Bartlett  
Analiese Hardgrave  
Kylie Lavinsky  
Avery Ferguson  
Makenzie Milhizer

### **MFA Acting**

P-Jay Adams  
Elizabeth Boisseau  
Liam Bouza Diaz  
Ani Cohen  
Javier Alejandro Flores  
Christina Foster  
Anthony J. Harris  
Bryson David Hoff  
Sam Jones  
Ty Norwood Jr.  
Audrey Romero  
Chelsea Bria Russell  
Dylan C. Wack  
Makai Walker

To request resumes, headshots, portfolios, interviews, or other information from any 2025 Theatre School graduate, please contact Devin Pittman at The Theatre School: 773-325-5047 or [dpittma3@depaul.edu](mailto:dpittma3@depaul.edu)





**THE**  
**THEATRE**  
**SCHOOL**  

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**AT DePaul University**

Founded as the Goodman School of Drama in 1925.

2350 N. Racine Ave., Chicago, IL 60614