

*good
grief*

by **Ngozi Anyanwu** directed by **Carla Stillwell**

February 3 – February 12, 2023

In the **Healy Theatre** | theatre.depaul.edu

THE
**THEATRE
SCHOOL**
AT DePaul University

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a look into THE THEATRE SCHOOL DEPAUL

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Mission Statement

The Theatre School at DePaul University (TS) educates, trains, and inspires students of theater in a conservatory setting that is rigorous, disciplined, culturally diverse, and that strives for the highest level of professional skill and artistry. A commitment to diversity and equality in education is central to our mission. As an integral part of the training, The Theatre School produces public programs and performances of a wide repertoire of plays—classic, contemporary, and of great—that challenge, entertain, stimulate the imagination. We seek to enhance a intellectual and cultural literacy community, our city, and our profession.



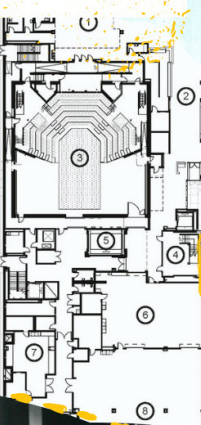
GOODMAN/ DE PAUL SCHOOL OF DRAMA SUBSCRIBER PARKING



The Theatre School DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

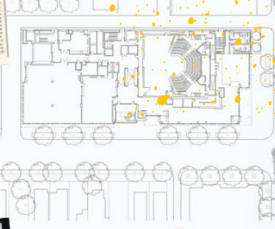


TO OPEN BE A PROVISION THE BIRD AND TWO PERSONS ARE CONTROLLED BY TWO PROSESSORS... SHOULD BE ABLE TO MOVE AT TWO POINTS... UNLESS SHOWN AT THE "ELEGANT" AND A FULL BELL PHOTO AT... TO BE AS LIGHT AND ALTERNATEABLE AS POSSIBLE... THIS IS BASED OFF SUN BICYCLES ATLAS (LARGO 24)



- 1 THEATRE
- 2 MONUMENTAL STAIR
- 3 FREIGHT ELEVATOR ACCESS TO BLACK BOX THEATER
- 4 PAINT SHOP
- 5 PROP SHOP
- 6 SCENE SHOP

THE THEATRE SCHOOL DEPAUL UNIVERSITY



THEATRE SCHOOL, DEPAUL UNIVERSITY - GPO



P-3 HEROISM AND THE SEX OF DEPAUL UNIVERSITY PERKS DISMISSED: AMY C. GILMAN MARCH 2010

- The Theatre School at DePaul University presents -

good grief

by Ngozi Anyanwu

Director - Carla Stillwell
Intimacy Director - Toranika Washington
Fight Director - Nick Sandys
Dialect Coach - Sammi Grant
Scenic Designer - Devin Meseke
Costume Designer - Naomi Arroyo
Lighting Designer - Matt Valerio
Sound Designer - Chris Cook
Technical Director - Grace Adams
Dramaturgs - Ember Skye Anne Sappington & Omari Sloan
Stage Manager - Bruno Díaz Miranda

February 3-12, 2023

The Theatre School at DePaul University
The Sondra A. and Denis Healy Theatre
2350 N. Racine Ave. Chicago, IL 60614



theatre.depaul.edu

Good Grief was produced by the Vineyard Theatre (Douglas Aibel, Artistic Director; Sarah Stern, Artistic Director; Suzanne Appel, Managing Director), New York City, 2018.

Center Theatre Group/Kirk Douglas Theatre (Michael Ritchie, Artistic Director), produced the world premiere of *Good Grief* in Los Angeles, California, in 2017.

Content Warning: Please note, *Good Grief* includes depictions of dubious consent in sexual situations; representations of mental health issues, specifically self-harm and suicidal ideation; fights/physical violence (wrestling); explicitly sexual content; discussions of death, dying, and grieving; parental neglect/abandonment; and racial microaggressions.

CAST

JD/Eros	Ryan Wright Cassidy
Nkechi/Artemis	Cat Christmas
Bro/Apollo	Jarrin Comer
Nene/Leto	Dyamone Hopkins
MJ's Mom/Neighbor's Mom/Neptune	Asha J. Houston
Matthew Jason George/Orion	Diego Longoria
Papa/Zeus	Keith "Rich" Oliver

PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Costume Designer	Anika Spletstoeszer
Assistant Costume Shop Manager	Teagan Anderson
Assistant Lighting Designer	Chase Barron
Assistant Scenic Designer	Shokie Tseumah
Assistant Stage Manager	Casey Fort, Shreya Khanna
Assistant Technical Director	Roman Jones, Nik Hunder
Assistant Wardrobe Supervisor	Hannah Andruss
Associate Sound Designer	Chase Grunden, Anna Jackson
Carpenter	Alex Klose
Crafts	Mackenzie Lutz
First Hand	Nora Dellifield, Abeline Glenzinski, Delaney Gosse, Jenna Wilson
Lead Carpenter	Lucas Holeman
Painter	Rachael Johnston
Production Electrician	Joshua Clewis
Programmer	Aidan McLeod
Stitcher	Jude Greiner, Grace Koehler, Leo Mroczek, Lim Park, Riley Trzeciak

HPR Crew	Trey Allwood, Juliet Jones, Eve Pahoresky, Selene Torres
Lighting Crew	Kyle Francavilla, Adrien Mathieu, Sarah Matthews, Connor Snow
Set/Props Crew	Izaak Kary, Aspen Lear, Chloe Morgan
Sound Crew	Mia Howard, Emily Lynch
Wardrobe Crew	Maria Acosta, Austin Beringer
Wig & Makeup Crew	Zoe Nisam, Sophie Pugh

ADVISORS

Lighting Design Advisor	Christine Binder
Sound Design Advisor	Toy Deiorio
Costume Design Advisor	Anna Wooden
Scenic Design Advisor	Regina Garcia
Costume Technology Advisor	Maggie Hofmann
Dramaturgy Advisor	Rachel Shtier
Theatre Technology Advisor	Jen Seleznow
Wig & Makeup Advisor	LunYe Marsh
Stage Management Advisor	Chris Freeburg

Good Grief is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. www.dramatists.com

DRAMATURGY NOTE

There is one truth in this play, and that is that Nkechi (N) and MJ are soulmates. Every other aspect of this text can fall under question: is that how it happened or is it a memory? Is this moment the present or is it a remembering plucked from the past? Beyond all of the questions of what is reality and what is memory's invention, this much our audience must know is true: Nkechi and MJ are each one half of a whole. Our playwright, Ngozi Anyanwu, places them in the footsteps of the gods Artemis and Orion. The playwright's choice to double cast N & MJ as figures from antiquity implies that in Artemis and Orion two souls forged a love so vast that it could not be contained to a single life. And so, in N and MJ's lives the love has spilled over into the realm of the living once more. They find each other once again. In writing this play, Ngozi Anyanwu has made a tombstone out of text for her own lost love. While Artemis's great love was immortalized in the stars, Anyanwu's great love is immortalized in this play.

The play's nonlinear structure helps guide the audience to the idea that our emotions guide us more than the physical world around us. There is no traveling from place to place in *Good Grief*, there is no quest. Anyanwu takes us through grieving a lost loved one. And in doing so it comes to the surprising conclusion that grief is good. The play shows us humanity at its lowest, life at its most cruel, to get us to that moment of relief: catharsis. To watch N grieve is to be worked through our own moments of grief, to be scrubbed against the rocks in a rushing river, and then wrung out and left to dry. By the time we reach the end of the play we are finally able to understand the title, *Good Grief*: to grieve deeply is to have loved fully.

Special Thanks to Father Emmanuel Tizhe Finbarr of The Star of the North Faith Community in West Branch, Michigan for his insight on Nigerian culture.

BIOGRAPHIES

Ryan Wright Cassidy [he/him] (JD/Eros) MFA2/ Acting. Ryan hails from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he began his acting career after graduating from Hamilton College in upstate New York. At The Theatre School, he has appeared in *The Nina Variations* (A Treplev), *Survived By* (Creative Ensemble), and *Moscow, Moscow, Moscow, Moscow, Moscow, Moscow* (Andrey). Regional theatre credits include: *The Glass Menagerie* (The Gentleman Caller), *As You Like It* (Orlando), *The Tempest* (Ferdinand), and the voice of Ryan Seacrest in the world premiere of *Gary*. He is grateful for the chance to collaborate with such a wonderful cast and crew, and for his classmates, friends, and loved ones and all of their support.

Cat Christmas (Catheryn Christmas-Gresham) [she/her] (Nkechi/Artemis) BFA4/ Acting. Cat was born in Highland Park, Illinois and raised in Kenosha, Wisconsin, where her love for acting developed during her time in the acclaimed KUSD Theatre Arts program. Thanks to the support of her family and two special teachers, she went on to train at The Theatre School and is ecstatic to complete her training with *Good Grief*. Her training credits include: *The Drunken City* (Marine), *Long Time Since Yesterday* (Alisa), *The Moors* (Emily), *God of Carnage* (Veronica) and *King John* (Constance). Her professional credits include: *Marie Antoinette and the Magical Negros* (U/S Sapphire), *Resignation* (Jess), *Power Book IV: Force* (Genesis's Friend), *Heist 88* (June), *Chicago Fire* (Makayla), *The Funnel* (Trina/Taylor), and a Dell Technologies commercial. Shoutout to Gray Talent! Thank you to all my friends and family who put up with my dramatics- it paid off!

Dyamone Hopkins [she/her] (Nene/Leto) MFA3/ Acting. Dyamone Hopkins is a South Side native. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in communication and theatre from Denison University. Recent

credits include: *Henry IV* (Worcester/M Quickly), *Detroit '67* (Chelle), *Sweat* (Cynthia), and *Our Lady of 121st Street* (Inez). Dyamone loves spending time with her family, she is very passionate about iced coffee, and she loves taking long walks down the chip aisle at the nearest grocery store.

Asha J. Houston [she/her] (MJ's Mom/Neighbor's Mom/Neptune) BFA4/ Acting. Asha is from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her Theatre School Credits include *Everybody* (Somebody 2), *Tall Enough* (Ife), and *Henry IV* (King Henry/ Annika). Asha is the 2021-22 Itkin/Healy Scholar, the 2021-22 Emmet Till Scholar and the 2022-23 Lucille G. Strauss and Alan Peters Scholar. Asha is also an alum of the British American Drama Academy MIO '22. She hopes you enjoy this beautiful show.

Diego Longoria (Matthew Jason George/Orion/ Fight Captain) BFA4/ Acting. Diego is a multi-disciplinary Mexican-American artist hailing from Austin, Texas. Besides his main focus as an actor, he works as a certified stunt fighter. In his personal time, Diego is a writer and a painter.

Keith "Rich" Oliver [he/him] (Papa/Zeus) MFA2/ Acting. Rich is from Miami, Florida and is a graduate of Florida A&M University with a degree in theatre performance. His Theatre School credits include *The Nina Variations* (Treplev), *Sweat* (Brucie) and *Henry IV* (Westmoreland/Aaron). His New York theatre credits include *Much Ado About Nothing* (Friar Francis) and *A Mid-Summer Night's Dream* (Snug) with the Classical Theatre of Harlem. He wants to thank his wife Jazmin and his parents Allen and Cynthia for their unwavering support.

Toranika Washington (Intimacy Director) Faculty. Theatre School credits include *Eurydice*,

BIOGRAPHIES

Three Antarciticas, and *The Drunken City*. Previous intimacy work: *The Color Purple* (individual intimacy coaching for actor Ayesu Lartey). In addition to her work at The Theatre School, Toranika is trained in Certified Bystander Intervention and Mental Health First Aid. She holds a master's degree in choreography and a bachelor's degree in radio/TV broadcasting. Toranika is a certified movement analyst (Laban/Bartenieff Movement Studies) and CEO of Somatic Soul Food-Movement Consulting.

Nick Sandys [he/him] (*Fight Director*) Faculty. Nick has taught stage combat at The Theatre School since 1995, having choreographed over 75 shows, most recently *Henry IV*, *Three Antarciticas*, *Sweat*, *The Rover*, *Neighborhood 3*, and *Luchadora!* He was awarded the 2019 Adjunct Excellence in Teaching Award. He is a certified teacher and fight director with The Society of American Fight Directors, and his fight choreography has been seen all over Chicagoland, including at Steppenwolf, Northlight, Lookingglass, and over 30 productions at Goodman. He is a resident fight director at Lyric Opera of Chicago and he has also staged fights for The Metropolitan Opera, as well at numerous opera companies, Shakespeare festivals, and colleges. He has received four Jeff-Award Nominations and one award as a fight director, and a further 17 nominations as an actor, director, and producer. www.nicksandys.com

Sammi Grant [she/her] (*Dialect Coach*) Faculty. Sammi is an adjunct professor of Voice/Speech for The Theatre School. She works as a professional dialect coach for film, TV, and theatre including at the Goodman Theatre, Timeline Theatre, The Gift Theatre, and many more. She is on the board of directors of the Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA).

Devin Meseke (*Scenic Designer*) BFA2/Scene Design. Devin is from Fort Worth, Texas. This is his first design at The Theatre School.

Naomi Arroyo [she/her] (*Costume Designer*) BFA3/Costume Design. Naomi is from Fishers, Indiana. Her Theatre School credits include *Squirrel Girl Goes to College* (Asst. Wardrobe Supervisor) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Asst. Costume Designer). This past year, Naomi worked on the world premiere of *The Notebook* at Chicago Shakespeare (Wardrobe Swing) and *cullud wàttah* at Victory Gardens (Wardrobe Supervisor).

Grace Adams [she/her] (*Technical Director*) BFA3/Theatre Technology. Grace is from St. Charles, Illinois. Her Theatre School credits include *Three Antarciticas*, *Tall Enough* (Asst. Technical Director) and *Tartuffe* (Technical Director).

Ember Skye Anne Sappington [she/her] (*Dramaturg*) BFA3/Dramaturgy & Criticism. Ember is from West Branch, Michigan. Her Theatre School credits include *Peerless* (Dramaturg), *Sweat* (Dramaturg), and *Henry IV* (Dramaturg). Ember is also pursuing a second

major in history and minor in Irish studies. She is currently an intern at Trap Door Theatre.

Omari Sloan [he/him] (*Dramaturg*) BFA2/Dramaturgy & Criticism. Omari is from Oak Park, Illinois. He's excited about working on his first Theatre School production.

Bruno Díaz Miranda (*Stage Manager*) BFA2/Stage Management. Bruno is from the Canary Islands, Spain. Recent Theatre School credits include: *Squirrel Girl Goes to College* (Asst. Stage Manager), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Asst. Stage Manager) and *Eurydice* (Stage Manager). Other credits include the opera *Les Contes d' Hoffmann* (Asst. Stage Manager) at Teatro Pérez Galdós. Upcoming: *Indecent*. Bruno is a proud member of the Spanish Stage Management Association (ARE).

Anika Spletstoeszer [she/her] (*Asst. Costume Designer*) BFA2/Costume Design. Anika is from San Diego, California. Her Theatre School credits include *Squirrel Girl Goes to College* (Wardrobe Crew), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Wardrobe Crew), and *Goosebumps The Musical* (Asst. Wardrobe Supervisor).

Casey Fort [he/him] (*Asst. Stage Manager*) BFA3/Stage Management. Casey is a stage manager from Anaheim, California and is elated to be a part of his first show in the Healy Theatre. His recent credits include *Three Antarciticas* (Stage Manager), *Spay* (Sub Asst. Stage Manager), and The Summer High School Theatre Program (Production Manager). When he is not stage managing, Casey enjoys working in the scene shop, riding the 'L', and enjoying Chicago with his friends!

Shreya Khanna [she/her] (*Asst. Stage Manager*) BFA1/Stage Management. Shreya is from Atlanta, Georgia. Her Theatre School credits include *Goosebumps The Musical* (Production Assistant); she was also a part of eight of her high school productions as a stage manager. She is super excited for you to enjoy the show, and everyone's hard work!

Joshua Clewis (*Production Electrician*) BFA3/Stage Management. Josh is from Cypress, Texas. He has worked as a stage manager, lighting designer, and electrician in numerous performance venues and theaters across Houston and Chicago. His previous Theatre School credits include *Goosebumps The Musical* (Stage Manager), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Asst. Stage Manager), *Tartuffe* (Stage Manager), Mess Fest Comedy Festival (Stage Manager), *As You Like It* (Asst. Stage Manager), and *Long Time Since Yesterday* (Asst. Stage Manager). Upcoming: *Indecent* (Stage Manager). Josh is grateful for his family and friends' unwavering support and for collaboration with his fellow lighting and production team members. He hopes you enjoy the show.

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 Jen Leahy Theatre Technical Director
 Jennifer Lightfoot Wig and Makeup Supervisor
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directed by Megan Carney
October 28-November 6, 2022

Vinegar Tom

by Caryl Churchill
directed by Christine Freije
February 10-19, 2023

Indecent

by Paula Vogel
directed by Rebecca Willingham
May 19-28, 2023

IN THE HEALY THEATRE

Henry IV

adapted by The Ensemble
directed by Chris Anthony
October 21-30, 2022

Good Grief

by Ngozi Anyawu
directed by Carla Stillwell
February 3-12, 2023

unaccompanied

by Helaina Michele
directed by Phyllis E. Griffin
May 5-14, 2023

CHICAGO PLAYWORKS FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG AUDIENCES

Goosebumps The Musical: Phantom of the Auditorium

by John Maclay and Danny Abosch
directed by Rob Adler
October 6-November 12, 2022

Las Wavys

by Ricardo Gamboa
directed by Coya Paz
January 21-February 11, 2023

A Wrinkle in Time

adapted by Tracy Young
directed by Jeff Mills
April 13-May 20, 2023



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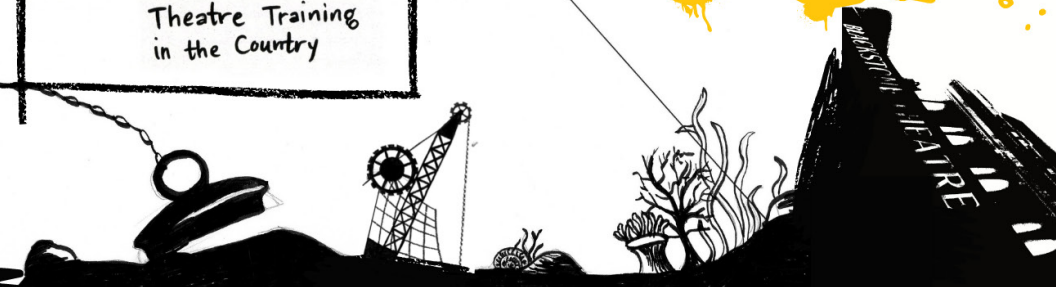


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