

by Paula Vogel directed by Rebecca Willingham May 19 – 28, 2023 In the Watts Theatre | theatre.depaul.edu





- The Theatre School at DePaul University presents -



by Paula Vogel Score and Original Music by Lisa Gutkin and Aaron Halva

Director - Rebecca Willingham Choreographer - Lin Batsheva Kahn Music Director - Mark Elliott Intimacy & Violence Director - Claire Yearman Voice and Dialect Coach - Phil Timberlake Scenic Designer - Abby West Costume Designer - Abby West Costume Designer - Avery Lauer Lighting Designer - Aria Morris Projection Designer - Grant Palmer Sound Designers - Christopher Cook & Forrest Gregor Technical Director - Ollie Gillespie Dramaturgs - Liz Bazzoli, Leah Geisler, & Emily Townley Stage Manager - Joshua Clewis

May 19-28, 2023

The Theatre School at DePaul University The Dr. John R. and Joyce L. Watts Theatre 2350 N. Racine Ave. Chicago, IL 60614



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CAST

Chana	Eliana Deckner-Glick
Vera/Dance Captain	Hannah Dubner
Lemml	Dan Haller
Avram	Caleb Harbin
Halina	Mira Kessler
Mendel	Zach Schnitzer
Otto	Marlo Shagar

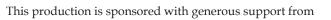
MUSICIANS

Accordion, Baritone Ukulele, Wood Block	Sam Hyson
Violin, Mandolin, Wood Block	
Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Tin Whistle	Joe Sanchez
Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Tin Whistle	-

PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Costume Designer	
	Juno Pacheco
	Molly Sharfstein
	Devin Meseke
Assistant Stage Manager	Bruno Díaz Miranda, Alondra Vela
Assistant Technical Director	Lucas Holeman, Ashley Hutchison
Associate Sound Designer	
Carpenter	Chloe Morgan, Darby Thurston
Draper/Cutter	
First Hand	Nora Dellifield, Abeline Glenzinski
Lead Carpenter	James Doolittle
Paint Charge	Abby West
	Nora Brooks-Slauter
Production Electrician	Nathan Lesperance
Production Sound Engineer	Ethan Korvne
Props Artisan	Alex Klose
Stitcher	Grace Koehler, Leo Mroczek, Lim Park, Riley Trzeciak
Wardrobe Supervisor	
	-

	Sally Cho, Chaz Haines, Leo Larson, Sofia Mota Bento Da Silva
	Averie Ledger
Set/Props Crew	Peyton Baisden, Lindsay Godard, Darby Thurston
Sound Crew	Mia Howard, John Sample
Wardrobe Crew	Mea Allen, Austin Beringer, Emma Jones, Aidan Smith
	Ethann Brewer, Addison Rogers





ADVISORS

Costume Design Advisor	Sally Dolembo
Costume Technology Advisor	Maggie Hofmann
Directing Advisor	Damon Kiely, Heidi Stillman
Dramaturgy Advisor	Rachel Shtier
Lighting Design Advisor	Christine A. Binder
Projection Design Advisor	
Scenic Design Advisor	
Sound Design Advisor	Toy Deiorio
Stage Management Advisor	Chris Freeburg
Theatre Technology Advisor	Jen Seleznow
Wig & Makeup Advisor	Erin Kennedy Lunsford

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"Ich hab noch einen Koffer in Berlin" (Theme from "I Am a Camera") German Text by Aldo Von Pinelli, Music by Erich M. Siegel TRO—© Copyright 1955 (renewed) Hampshire House Publishing Corp., New York, NY All Rights Reserved Including Public Performance For Profit. Used by Permission

Original Broadway Production produced by Daryl Roth, Elizabeth I. McCann, and Cody Lassen Indecent was produced by the Vineyard Theatre (Douglas Aibel and Sarah Stern, Artistic Directors; Jennifer Garvey-Blackwell, Executive Director) New York City, Spring, 2016

> Indecent was commissioned by Yale Repertory Theatre, New Haven, Connecticut (James Bundy, Artistic Director; Victoria Nolan, Managing Director), and Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, Oregon (Bill Rauch, Artistic Director, Paul Nicholson, Executive Director)

Originally produced by Yale Repertory Theatre, New Haven, Connecticut (James Bundy, Artistic Director; Victoria Nolan, Managing Director) and

La Jolla Playhouse, La Jolla, California (Christopher Ashley, Artistic Director; Michael S. Rosenberg, Managing Director) *Indecent* under the then title of "The Vengeance Project" was developed, in part, at the 2013 Sundance Institute Theatre Lab at the Sundance Resort

> Inspired by The People vs. The God of Vengeance, Conceived by Rebecca Rugg and Rebecca Taichman

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

For Anna Willingham, who lived the story, and Warren Willingham, who taught me how to tell it.

SPECIAL THANKS

David Chack, Aurelia Clunie, Christine Freije, Benna Kessler, Damon Kiely, Stephen Kniss, Lisa Portes, Daniel Shtivelberg, and Emil Thomas.

DRAMATURGY NOTE

"The defendants have been found guilty of presenting an indecent, obscene, and immoral play."

Judge McIntyre read these words to indict the 1923 cast of Sholem Asch's *The God of Vengeance* after only a handful of months.

"They are trying to tell us that this play is dirty, immoral, obscene, and of course indecent."

A high school senior named Madeline Scotti proclaimed these words this year after Douglas Anderson School of the Arts in Jacksonville, Florida canceled its production of Paula Vogel's *Indecent*.

A century separates the *God of Vengeance* obscenity trial from this production of *Indecent*. Surely one hundred years yields social progress, enlightened mores, and the righting of wrongs. Or does it? We see the same pattern of censorship: authority figures indict content they deem inappropriate for young audiences, allegations of immorality inspire a moral panic, and artists lose opportunities to depict their own stories. These attempts at censorship tell the history of theatre.

Attempt is the keyword here. Censorship is pervasive, but it's also inherently paradoxical. Art is never so malleable as to give in to moral challenges, and calls for censorship only bring more attention to the objectionable work in question. The very existence of Indecent, which follows the history and controversies of Sholem Asch's *The God of Vengeance*, testifies to this phenomenon. The history of theatre is then perhaps better described as a cycle of censorship and perseverance. In one aspect, this history echoes the much longer history of Judaism. Just as theatre persisted and thrived, so did Jewish identity against thousands of years of targeted violence and vitriol. For the Yiddish-language theatre, where *The God of Vengeance* begins its journey and to which *Indecent* pays homage, the fight against censorship is just one part of a larger ongoing battle against antisemitism–Jewish artists defend their personhood when they defend their art. *Indecent*, by recounting both the struggle and passion that *The God of Vengeance* inspired, beautifully captures the intersection of theatre-making and identity preservation. Before its obscenity trial, Asch's play still aroused public scrutiny and personal attacks, but artists around the world kept producing it. From Berlin to Broadway, *The God of Vengeance* persisted even when cast reputations did not. Why put so much on the line for one play?

The answer is that theatre humanizes. Art helps us envision a better world and it is exactly this communal quality of the theatre, its invitation to embody another person's story, that makes it both so powerful and so frequently policed. For the performer, theatre is a source of dignity and agency of their own identity. At a time of rampant xenophobia and antisemitic violence, *The God of Vengeance* brought nuanced Jewish characters to the American stage. Now, in a country still plagued by the same bigotry, *Indecent* aims to do the same. Douglas Anderson School of the Arts may not have produced *Indecent*, and *The God of Vengeance* may have had its run cut short, but here, at this performance, in this theatre, we persevere.

BIOGRAPHIES

Eliana Deckner-Glick [she/her] (*Chana*) BFA4/ Acting. Eliana (aka EDG) is a Georgia Peach raised in Marietta where she discovered her love for the arts, thanks to her loving family. She began her acting training at the Cobb County Center for Excellence in the Performing Arts. Some of her favorite Theatre School credits include *The Seagull* (Masha), *Barbecue* (Barbara), and *Tall Enough* (Blue Clown). Eliana finds joy in telling Jewish stories, transforming, and singing on stage. She'd like to thank her family for being her biggest fans. Instagram: @e.d.g.__

Hannah Dubner [she/her] (Vera/Dance Captain)

MFA1/Acting. Originally from no-cell-phone reception, Connecticut and after a decade in NYC, Hannah is grateful to be sharing this story with the DePaul community. A few favorite credits include the title role in *Hamlet, Bad Jews* (Daphna), and *As You Like It* (Rosalind). Hannah is also a poet, embodiment educator, and goat lover. You can find more musings at hannahdubner.com.

Dan Haller [he/him] (Lemml) BFA3/Acting. Dan is from Columbia, Illinois. His Theatre School credits include *Goosebumps The Musical* (Brian) and *Stupid F*cking Bird* (Dev). He's incredibly

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grateful for the opportunity to tell this story with this team of beautiful human beings.

Caleb Harbin [he/him] (*Avram*) MFA1/Acting. Caleb is from Fresno, California. He is incredibly grateful to be making his mainstage debut in *Indecent* alongside his phenomenal cast, crew, stage management, and design/production teams. Before coming to DePaul, Caleb earned a BFA in acting from Azusa Pacific University and graduated from UCB's improv training program.

Mira Kessler [she/her] (*Halina*) MFA2/Acting. Mira grew up speaking Yiddish in Durham, North Carolina. After graduating from Brandeis University, she moved to New York to pursue her love of acting. There she performed with The New Yiddish Rep in *The God of Vengeance* and is truly touched to come full circle and perform in *Indecent*. You may have caught Mira in Netflix's Unorthodox or in *Small Mouth Sounds* and *Home* at The Theatre School. She'd like to dedicate this performance to her mother, for instilling in her a love of yiddishkayt.

Zach Schnitzer [he/him] (Mendel) BFA3/Acting. Zach is from Crystal, Minnesota. Past Theatre School credits include: Goosebumps The Musical, Antigone, and Straight White Men. He is proud to be telling this story!

Marlo Shagar [he/him] (Otto) MFA1/Acting. Marlo is from Seattle, Washington, where he got his BA in drama: performance at The University of Washington. His favorite credits include Marisol (Lenny; The Williams Project), Brooklyn Bridge (Ensemble; Seattle Children's Theatre), and Everything is Illuminated (Alex; Book-It Repertory Theatre) where he won the Gypsy Rose Lee Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Larger Theater. Marlo is excited to start his artistic journey here in Chicago. Thank you for coming to the show!

Rebecca Willingham [she/her] (Director) MFA3/ Directing. Rebecca is a director and originally from Charlottesville, Virginia. Her previous Theatre School credits include Do You Feel Anger?, Much Ado About Nothing, Pieces That Remain, and Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons. Rebecca is the artistic director and co-founder of The Sound, where she directed Seagulls (at Steppenwolf LookOut), Killed a Man Joking (with First Floor Theater), Red Bowl at the Jeffs, and others. She is an alumna of Emerson College, the National Theatre Institute, and the Lincoln Center Directors Lab. Upcoming: Seagulls at Oak Park Festival Theatre. rebeccawillingham.com

Lin Batsheva Kahn (Choreographer) Faculty. Kahn's choreography includes many collaborations with the DePaul School of Music such as Nozze Di Figaro, Dido and Aeneas, The Fairy Queen, and A Dybbuk - or Between Two Worlds at The Theatre School, to music by Ilya Levinson who composed music for cello in her new piece Night Table. Lin's MusicDance En-sem'-ble has been one of eight companies selected to perform January Thirtyfirst, a duet with solo violin and actor Abigail Hendricks and the dynamic *POUR*, originally created and filmed with Grammy award-winning Third Coast Percussion in the 2021 and 2022 Harvest Chicago Contemporary Dance Festivals. A Theatre School Excellence in Teaching honoree, she teaches modern dance technique, improvisation, choreography, and original academic dance courses such as Diversity in Dance: Paradigms Shifting.

Abby West [she/her] (Scenic Designer/Paint Charge) BFA4/Scene Design. Abby is a Chicago-based scenic artist and designer, originally hailing from Nashville, Tennessee. Her Theatre School credits include Tall Enough (Scenic Designer and Charge), and Fefu and Her Friends (Paint Charge). In her time here at the Theatre School, she also spent a few months studying scenic art with The Royal Central School for Speech and Drama. Abby looks foreward to continuing to both paint and design across the city and country post-graduation.

Avery Lauer [he/him] (Costume Designer) BFA4/ Costume Design. Avery is from the small town of Pleasantville, Iowa. His lead design work at The Theatre School includes Detroit '67, Eurydice, and Do You Feel Anger? Avery's graduating this year and he couldn't be more excited.

Aria Morris [she/her] (Lighting Designer) BFA4/ Lighting Design. Aria is from Las Vegas, Nevada. Her credits at The Theatre School include Three Antarcticas (Lighting Designer), Come Back Little Sheba (Lighting Designer), and Las Wavys (Asst. Lighting Designer). She hopes that all those she wishes to thank know who they are.

Forrest Gregor [he/him] (Sound Designer) BFA4/ Sound Design. Forrest is a sound designer, engineer, and composer originally from Portland, Oregon. His Theatre School design credits include Eurydice, Top Girls, Bajo Las Estrellas, Peerless, V.I.P., Barbecue, God of Carnage, Love and Information, and Marisol. Other Theatre School credits include Do You Feel Anger? (Assoc. Designer) and Detroit '67 (Production Sound Engineer). Additional design credits include What the Constitution Means to Me, Campaigns, Inc., The Chinese Lady (TimeLine); Andy Warhol in *Iran* (Northlight); and *Tiger Style!* (Writers). Associate Credits: Sanctuaries: A New Jazz Chamber Opera (Third Angle New Music). Assistant credits: Avenue Q (Music Theatre Works); Skates: A New Musical (HHWTS Productions). Forrest is excited to be graduating in June, and plans to remain in the city and pursue a career as a freelance sound designer. For more, visit forrestgregor.com.

Liz Bazzoli (Dramaturg) BFA3/Dramaturgy & Dramatic Criticism. Liz is a dramaturg, as well as one of the managing co-editors of The Grappler, The Theatre School's student-run dramaturgy journal. Past dramaturgy credits at The Theatre School include Everybody and Goosebumps The Musical.

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Leah Geisler [they/she] (*Dramaturg*) BFA4/ Dramaturgy & Dramatic Criticism. Leah is a dramaturg, archivist, writer, and editor from Dallas, Texas. They also served as co-dramaturg for *Vinegar Tom* this year. She is a managing editor for The Grappler and co-runs the script library. Outside of The Theatre School, Leah just launched a public archive website for Prop Thtr.

Emily Townley [she/her] (Dramaturg) BFA3/ Dramaturgy & Dramatic Criticism. Emily is a dramaturg, writer, and dad rock aficionado originally from Ashburn, Virginia. Indecent will be her third mainstage show as a dramaturg with The Theatre School, with her two previous credits being Detroit '67 and Goosebumps The Musical. In her spare time, she contributes to The Theatre School's student journal, The Grappler, and the sports blog, Call to the Pen. She is proud to be a part of such a fantastic team of creatives and thankful to have worked on this show.

Joshua Clewis (Stage Manager) BFA3/Stage Management. Josh is from Cypress, Texas, and he has worked as a stage manager, lighting designer, and electrician at numerous performance venues and theaters across Houston and Chicago. His previous credits from The Theatre School include Good Grief (Production Electrician), 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). His upcoming project is *The Mole Hill Stories*, where he will serve as the production stage manager. Josh is deeply grateful for his family, friends, roommate, and stage management team, and he hopes that you thoroughly enjoy the show.

Sam Hyson (*Musician*) Sam Hyson is a Chicago-based musician with a passion for international music. He performs on violin, accordion, and other instruments, and has studied traditional music with Chicago immigrant musicians from Serbia, Argentina, Ghana, Thailand, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Iraq, and India. He cofounded Chicago Folklore Ensemble, with whom he has collaborated to produce numerous concerts, two albums of music, and a book of immigrant stories. His previous theater experience includes A Christmas Carol (Goodman Theatre) and performing live music for Rohina Malik's one-woman play Unveiled (WaterTower Theatre, Dallas, TX). samhyson.com

Charlotte Markle (*Musician*) Charlotte is a Chicago-based actor, musician, dialect coach and teacher. She has been playing violin most of her life and received formal training at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre-College Program. As a multidisciplinary performer, Charlotte looks for any opportunity to combine live theatre and music, her two favorite mediums. Charlotte is a core company member of Proboscis Theatre Company and an adjunct instructor of voice and speech at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. Charlotte received her MFA. in acting from The Theatre School in 2019 and is delighted to be back in a totally new and different role!

Nora Shaffer [she/her] (Musician) Nora is a freelance clarinetist and private instructor in the Chicago area. She has had the pleasure of performing with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Philharmonic, Milwaukee Ballet, and many other ensembles. A DePaul University graduate, she studied with Larry Combs and Julie DeRoche while earning a Performer's Certificate and Masters in Music (with distinction). She completed a B.A. at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, and has also studied with Stephen Williamson, Bil Jackson, and Andrew Stevens. Passionate about chamber music, Nora is a founding member of the Lake Effect Clarinet Quartet. As Vandoren artists, the quartet concertizes and presents clinics across the Midwest. Lake Effect released their debut album in 2019 and will release their second album in 2023. Nora is Adjunct Professor of Clarinet at Concordia University Chicago, Adjunct Faculty in Music Education at DePaul University, and Adjunct Professor of Clarinet and Theory at Wilbur Wright College. She maintains a private studio in Chicago as well as a significant studio at Naperville Central High School. Nora's method book, Scales and Harmonic Studies for the *Intermediate Clarinetist,* was published by EHM Publishing in 2017. It is the first comprehensive intermediate scale study for clarinet. Nora has also written numerous articles on clarinet pedagogy for scholarly publications, including the National Association of Wind and Percussion Instructors (NACWPI) Journal and the Illinois Music Educators Association (ILMEA) Journal. Visit www.norashafferclarinet.com for more information.

Clara Schmidt [she/her] (Asst. Costume Designer) BFA3/Costume Design. Clara is from Detroit, Michigan. Her Theatre School credits include Three Antarcticas (Costume Designer), Much Ado About Nothing (Asst. Wardrobe Supervisor), and Squirrel Girl Goes to College (Asst. Costume Designer). This one's for Lily.

Molly Sharfstein [any pronouns] (Asst. Director) BFA2/Theatre Arts. Molly is from Santa Cruz, California. Recent Theatre School credits include Pick Up the Phone/Wired (Director), Home (Dramaturg/Asst. Director), Swear on My Mother's Grave (Asst. Director), Sweat (Stage Manager), and acting in student labs. She also worked as a directing intern on Twelfth Night at Santa Cruz Shakespeare this past summer.

Bruno Díaz Miranda (Asst. Stage Manager) BFA2/Stage Management. Bruno is from the Canary Islands, Spain. Past Theatre School credits include Good Grief (Stage Manager), Eurydice (Stage Manager), Much Ado About Nothing (Asst. Stage Manager), Squirrel Girl Goes to College (Asst. Stage Manager). Other Credits: Cosi fan tutte at DePaul Opera Theatre (Asst. Stage Manager), Les Contes D'Hoffmann at Teatro Pérez Galdós (Asst. Stage Manager). This summer, he will be joining the Old Globe Theatre

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in San Diego, California as a stage management apprentice for *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Upcoming: *The Mole Hill Stories* (Stage Manager). Bruno is a proud member of the Spanish Stage Management Association (ARE).

Alondra Vela [she/her] (Asst. Stage Manager) BFA1/Stage Management. Alondra is from Zapata, Texas. Her Theatre School credits include Las Wayvs (Asst. Stage Manager) and Henry IV (Production Assistant). She gained her first experiences in stage management in 17 of her high school productions, earning various awards across Texas. She is excited to share this production of Indecent with everyone and hopes you enjoy the show!

Nora Dellifield [she/her] (*First Hand*) BFA3/ Costume Technology. Nora is from Ada, Ohio. Her recent Theatre School credits include *Las Wavys, Vinegar Tom*, and *Three Antarcticas* (First Hand). This past summer, she was a costume artisan at the Utah Shakespeare Festival in Cedar City, Utah. Nathan Lesperance [he/they] (Production Electrician) BFA2/Lighting Design. Nate is from Skokie, Illinois. Most recently, they were the production electrician for Las Wavys; lighting designer for Eurydice and Pieces That Remain; and light board operator for Mess Fest Comedy Festival, Squirrel Girl Goes to College, and Much Ado About Nothing at The Theatre School. When he is not at The Theatre School, Nate enjoys traveling, sketching, cooking, and spending time with family and friends. He hopes that you enjoy the show!

Naomi Arroyo [she/her] (Wardrobe Supervisor) BFA3/Costume Design. Naomi is from Fishers, Indiana. Her Theatre School credits include Squirrel Girl Goes to College (Asst. Wardrobe Supervisor), Good Grief (Costume Designer), and assistant costume shop manager. Her recent professional credits include Cullud Wattah at Victory Gardens (Wardrobe Supervisor), The Notebook the Musical at Chicago Shakespeare (Wardrobe Cover), and The Comedy of Errors at Chicago Shakespeare (Wardrobe Cover).

The Theatre School at DePaul University Faculty & Staff

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	Lighting Supervisor
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Dominic DiGiovanni	Scene Shop Foreperson
Max Epps	Draper
Jessie Gowens	Wardrobe Supervisor
Alex Hagman	Draper
Randy Handley	Costume Shop Manager
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Jim Keith	. Theatre Assistant Technical Director
Jen Leahy	Theatre Technical Director
Jennifer Lightfoot	Wig and Makeup Supervisor
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Collage design by Olivia Dunn, BFA Theatre Management '22

