

THE VARSITY
THEATRE COMPANY

PRESENTS

SHEDDING LOAD

BY **JESSICA OWENS**

DIRECTED BY **MIA WALKER**

59
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THEATER C

FEBRUARY 2 – 18

VARSITY THEATRE COMPANY
PRESENTS

SHEDDING LOAD

BY **JESSICA OWENS**
DIRECTED BY **MIA WALKER**

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

KENNY	TEDDY TRICE *
TRISH	MARLINA DEVERY
NANCY	ROBYNE PARRISH *
BEN	DERRICK JOHN MARSHALL *
JOSEPH	NICK TROTTA
RANDALL	RENRICK PALMER *
JOEY	ERIC RUFFIN
NED	DOMINIQUE LAWSON *
KENDRA	PORTLAND THOMAS *
CARL	DAVID BELLEVILLE
KENDRA UNDERSTUDY	KALA ROSS
TRISH/NANCY UNDERSTUDY	JOY KATHERINE DONZE *
KENNY/CARL UNDERSTUDY	MILTON LYLES
JOEY/RANDALL/NED UNDERSTUDY	ULRIC ALFRED TAYLOR
BEN/JOSEPH UNDERSTUDY	JONATHAN WEINER

CREATIVE TEAM

PLAYWRIGHT	JESSICA OWENS
DIRECTOR	MIA WALKER §
SCENIC & VIDEO DESIGN	BRIAN PACELLI †
COSTUME DESIGN	DEBBI HOBSON
LIGHTING DESIGN	COLLEEN DOHERTY †
SOUND DESIGN	CARSEN JOENK
PROPS DESIGN	BRITTANY STEELE
CASTING DIRECTOR	SUJOTTA PACE
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER	ADAM SHERWIN
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	KIVA WISE
URBAN PLANNING CONSULTANT	CHANDRA CHRISTMAS ROUSE

PRODUCTION/VARSITY THEATRE TEAM

PRODUCING DIRECTOR	JESSICA OWENS
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER	ISAIAH BROOKS
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	MIKE MROCH
TECHNICAL & PRODUCTION ADVISOR	AIDAN CARR
MASTER ELECTRICIAN	COLLEEN DOHERTY

RUN TIME: 1 HOUR, 15 MINUTES, WITH NO INTERMISSION

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

§ Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

†Member of United Scenic Artists.

TEDDY TRICE

(Kenny)



Teddy Trice is excited to begin the new year with ***Shedding Load***. Broadway: ***The Book of Mormon***. National Tour: ***The Book of Mormon*** (2nd National). International Tour: ***Come From Away***, ***The Book of Mormon*** (Australia). Off Broadway: world premiere of ***The Butcher Boy*** (Irish Repertory Theatre). Select regional: ***The Island*** (KC Actors Theatre), ***Sweat*** (Unicorn Theatre), ***Lucky Stiff*** (Ozark Actors Theatre). A native of Kansas City, MO, Teddy holds a BA in Theatre from Drury University. Gratitude to Claire, Mom and Dad, SAKS&, and the ***Shedding Load*** team for their unwavering support.

@teddytrice

MARLINA DEVERY

(Trish)



Marlina Devery is incredibly grateful to be a part of this cast! She is a recent graduate of Pace University's Acting/Directing program. Marlina can be seen in many commercials, as well as her original films *Wooly* and *Control*. She would like to thank everyone involved in this production for their hard work and her family, friends, and partner for their support. Three cheers for live theater!

@marlinadevery

ROBYNE PARRISH

(Nancy)

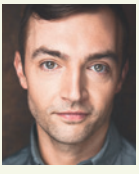


Last seen: Maine Public Theatre in ***Victorian Ladies' Detective Collective*** and the OBR WP of ***Strings Attached*** with Pulse Theatre. TV/Film: *The Crowded Room* (Apple TV, 2023), *A Man Called Otto*, *Gossip Girl* on HBO Max, and the feature *Hail Mary* opposite Tina Benko, starring Max Cassella (in post). Off Broadway: The York, The Mint, Project Y, Out of the Box, Indieworks, NYMF, Musicals Tonight!, The Chain, and Sonnet Rep. Select regional: Virginia Stage, The Arden, Theatre Raleigh, Pittsburgh CLO, and Pittsburgh Public Theatre. AEA/SAG-AFTRA. Dramatist Guild. UNCSA graduate.

www.robyneparrish.com

DERRICK JOHN MARSHALL

(Ben)



Derrick John Marshall is a graduate of Western Michigan University and The Atlantic Theater Company Conservatory. Theater credits include ***Black Angels Over Tuskegee*** at Delaware Theatre Company, ***A Few Good Men*** with The Gallery Players, ***The Birds*** and ***The Invasion*** with Patch Works Theatre where he was a founding member as well as director of ***Fat Men in Skirts***. He has also appeared on screen in *Evil Lives Here*, *Slice of Life*, and *Attribution Error*.

NICK TROTTA

(Joseph)



Nick Trotta is a Brooklyn-based actor and acting teacher. He is thrilled to be part of The Varsity Theatre. Nick has performed at the Rattlestick Theater, Dixon Place, The Brick, Bushwick Starr, and various other New York theaters and has also made several films with Kunsthouse Productions. He was a co-founder of The Tugboat Collective and The Clementine Players. Nick recently graduated from the Atlantic Acting School Conservatory Program.

www.nicktrotta.com

RENRICK PALMER

(Randall) (he/him)



Renrick Palmer was born in Jamaica and grew up in New York City. After a stint in the United States Air Force, and a tour of duty in the Middle East, Renrick went on to graduate from Long Island University and the New York Film Academy. He is an actor with numerous accolades and critical successes to his name, not the least of which playing Jackie Robinson on the History Channel and winning Best Actor at the Ignite Film Festival in 2022. He is an author and avid athlete who is passionate about every project.

ERIC RUFFIN

(Joey)



Eric Ruffin made his NY stage debut in the 2022 Winterfest production of ***Dust of Egypt***. He starred as Milo in *The Transfiguration* written directed by Michael O'Shea which was an Un Certain Regard Official Selection 2016 Cannes Film Festival, won 2017 The Jury Award - Dublin Film Festival & was nominated for the John Cassavetes Award 2018 Independent Spirit Awards. Eric started acting at the age of 7 and made his TV debut recurring as Dylan Bishop in *The Good Wife*. Other TV credits: *Hot Angry Mom* (Pilot), *Wu-Tang: An American Saga, 30 Rock, Person of Interest, A Gifted Man*.

@ericruffin_

DOMINIQUE LAWSON

(Ned) (he/him)



Dominique Lawson is excited to kick off 2023 with ***Shedding Load***! Theater: ***Once on this Island*** (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), ***Spring Awakening*** (Hangar Theatre), ***A Christmas Carol*** (Sacramento Theatre Company), ***HAIR*** (Pentangle Arts), ***Kiss Me, Kate*** (SToNC); ***Shrek: The Musical***, ***Mamma Mia!*** (Post Playhouse). Television: *FBI*, *Bull* (CBS); *Younger* (TV Land), *Half-Empty* (Pilot), *High Maintenance* (HBO), *Hit & Run* (Netflix), *The Blacklist* (NBC), *Lisey's Story* (Apple TV+), *Dr. Death* (Peacock). Film: *Happiest Season* (Sony Pictures/Hulu), *Down Low* (FilmNation). Education: BFA, University of Central Florida. Thanks to reps at Entertainment Lab & BWA.

@DominiqueAllenLawson

PORTLAND THOMAS

(Kendra) (she/her)

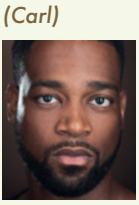


Off Broadway: ***Seize the King***, ***Fit for a Queen*** (Classical Theatre of Harlem); ***Anna Karenina*** (The Flea), ***Sources of Light*** (HERE Arts Center), ***The Cotillion*** (Upcoming - The Movement & New Georges). Regional: ***Teenage Dick*** (Woolly Mammoth, The Huntington, Pasadena Playhouse), ***Hamlet & St. Joan*** (BEDLAM with The McCarter Theatre), ***The Wolves*** (Marin Theatre Company), ***The Syringa Tree*** (Creede Repertory Theatre). TV: *Mott & Spy*. Film: *Fernanda* (Sundance Institute). BFA: NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Matthew 7:7. Big thank you to God, the incredible Wolf Talent Group team, and my family for their endless support.

www.portlandthomas.com

DAVID BELLEVILLE

(Carl)



David Belleville is elated to be a part of ***Shedding Load***. He studied acting at William Esper Studio where he affirmed his love for the craft of acting. Born in Brooklyn, growing up in a diverse neighborhood gave him a nuanced perspective of the world that led to him channeling this nuance into the arts. Most recent credits: Dr. Alex Mathers in "The Stranger Things Experience" (Netflix), (Older) Ren in *The Pendulum Project* (directed by Steven Soderbergh), Paul in ***The Things We Bring Home*** (Rehabilitation through the Arts), recently wrapped as Gregory Lawrence in *We Are Family* (Natalliagon productions).

@Da_vill_

JESSICA OWENS

(Playwright, Varsity Theatre Company Producing Director)

Jessica Owens is a New York-based playwright, dramaturg, and producer. Writing includes ***Shedding Load*** (O'Neill Semifinalist), ***The Valkyries*** (O'Neill Semifinalist; The Tank, Dixon Place), ***I LOVE NEW YORK: a found text american dream*** (Dixon Place, The Tank). Dramaturgy includes: ***Farragut North*** (5th Floor), ***The Glass Menagerie*** (Pigeonholed), ***The Pitchforks*** (The Loading Dock, The Drama League), ***Macbeth*** (Columbia Stages). Jessica currently works at Roundabout Theatre Company. She is a script reader for Roundabout, The Public, Dramatists Guild Fellowship, Playwrights Realm, Jewish Plays Project, and YouthPLAYS. Producing director of The Varsity Theatre Company. BA Vanderbilt University, MA RADA & Birkbeck College.

MIA WALKER

(Director) (she/her)

Mia Walker is a Brooklyn-based multimedia director who has staged premieres in NYC and regionally, and developed new work with The Vineyard, Bushwick Starr, Audible, Broadway Video, Second Stage, The Flea, Fault Line Theatre, and others. Broadway Associate/Asst. Directing: ***Jagged Little Pill***, ***Waitress***, ***Finding Neverland***, ***Pippin***, ***Porgy and Bess***. National Tour Directing: ***Pippin*** and ***Finding Neverland***. In addition to concerts, films, and music videos, Mia creates and directs work in the audio space and interactive media. Drama League TV Directing Fellow. BA Harvard University.

www.miapwalker.com

ISAIAH BROOKS

(Associate Producer)

Isaiah Brooks is an actor and producer from the Washington DC area. Isaiah's credits include Syracuse Stage, Amadeus, Arena Stage, Identity Theft, Undercurrent; Grassroots Arts Collective: ***Nannyville*** and ***Islands Never Say***. Isaiah is currently based in New York City and serves as one of the founding board members for Grassroots Arts Collective. Grassroots prioritizes accessibility, visibility, and fostering artists of the global majority by utilizing art to connect, heal, and rehabilitate. Through developing new work, Isaiah continues to deepen their craft and appreciation for storytelling with the intent to create social change.

www.isaiahbrooks.com

BRIAN PACELLI

(Scenic and Video Design)

Brian Pacelli is a Manhattan-based theater designer. Selected designs include ***Five Guys Named Moe*** (Fulton Theatre), ***The Adult in the Room*** (Victory Gardens Theater), ***Farragut North*** (Hudson Guild), ***Tumbleweed*** (Dixon Place), ***Dutchman*** (Secret Theater), ***SubUrbia*** (Hudson Guild). Selected associate and assistant design credits include Broadway: ***Pictures from Home***, ***The Piano Lesson***, ***Mr. Saturday Night***, ***Harry Connick Jr.—A Celebration of Cole Porter***, ***Derren Brown: Secret***. Off Broadway: ***Semblance*** (NYTW), ***Bella Bella*** (MTC), ***The Revolving Cycles***... Other: ***Broadway Bares***, ***Mr. Holland's Opus*** (Ogunquit Playhouse); ***Tristan und Isolde***, ***M. Butterfly*** (Santa Fe Opera); ***The Scarlet Pimpernel*** (Lincoln Center), ***Footloose*** (Norwegian Cruise Line). He holds a certificate in Technical Design & Production from the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale.

@pacellistudios

DEBBI HOBSON

(Costume Design)

Debbi Hobson has been a costume designer for over 20 years. A resident artist with Phoenix Theatre Ensemble, she designed ***The Importance of Being Earnest***, ***Skin Of Their Teeth***, and ***The Harmfulness of Tobacco*** for their inaugural Phoenix Theatre Festival. Off Broadway credits include: ***A Letter to Harvey Milk*** (dir. Evan Pappas), ***Luft Gangster*** (dir. Austin Pendleton). Off-Off Broadway Credits include ***Echoes in the Garden*** (dir. Aimee Toddoroff), ***Tartuffe*** (dir. Craig Smith) where she was nominated for the 2018 NYIT Outstanding Costume Design award. In 2015 she was awarded the NYIT Outstanding Costume Design award for ***Unmentionables*** (dir. Monserrat Mendez).

COLLEEN DOHERTY

(Lighting Design and Master Electrician)

Colleen Doherty is excited to work on her first project with The Varsity Theatre Company! Recent lighting design credits include ***Espejos:Clean*** (Hartford Stage and Syracuse Stage), ***The Chinese Lady*** (The Studio Theatre at Tierra del Sol). Associate/assistant lighting design credits include ***Paradise Square*** (Broadway), ***The Griswolds' Broadway Vacation*** (5th Ave Theater), and ***On That Day In Amsterdam*** (Primary Stages at 59E59). MFA from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. Much love to Dad, Mom, Sean and Marc!

@colleenashleyd

www.colleenadoherty.com

CARSEN JOENK

(Sound Designer)

Carsen Joenk is a multi-disciplinary artist interested in work that embraces the weird, wild, and unfamiliar within equitable, ensemble-driven processes. She is the co-artistic director of Rat Queen Theatre Company, a 2020-2022 Roundabout Emerging Directors Group member, and a resident artist with New Light Theater Project. Select sound: ***Made by God*** (Irish Repertory Theatre), ***The Mountaintop*** (Weston Theater Company), ***Golden Leaf Ragtime Blues*** (Shakespeare and Co.), ***A Poem and a Mistake*** (Australian Centre for Contemporary Art), ***Best Life*** (JACK), ***Fiction.*** (600 Highwaymen), and various projects with NYU Grad Acting.

www.carsen-joenk.com

BRITTANY STEELE

(Props Designer)

Brittany Steele is a multidisciplinary storyteller dedicated to the details. She has most recently been working in production on events like DOC NYC, Photoville, and The World Voices Festival. Brittany is excited to dive back into the theater world with ***Shedding Load*** and The Varsity Theater Company. Past prop projects include: ***She Kills Monsters*** (PrismHouse Theater Co) and a whole lot of cosplay!

ADAM SHERWIN

(Production Stage Manager) (he/him)

Blockbuster Guy (Halifax Fringe), ***S.U.N. in the USA*** (CAGE Theatre Company), ***Round Went the Wheel*** (Broadway Bound Theatre Festival), and ***Hamlet*** (Shakespeare Sports Theatre Company). Regional credits: ***The Music Man***, ***The Wizard of Oz***, ***Hairspray***, and ***Peter Pan***. He has also stage managed and/or sound designed shows at Frigid NY, Planet Connections Theatre Festivity, and the Unfringed Festival. He is a former house manager for Actors' Playhouse in Coral Gables.

SUJOTTA PACE, CSA

(Casting Director) (she/her)

Sujotta Pace is freelance casting director casting short films, new media content, and plays (NY and regionally). Pace is also a part of the Roundabout Theatre Company/C12 casting team and serves on the Board of Directors of the Casting Society. Previously she worked at Actors Theatre of Louisville as the professional training company producer & casting associate. Pace contributed to the casting, recruitment, and season planning of the PTC 2020-2021 apprenticeship program, Actors Theatre Direct Season, Virtual PTC Season, and the Humana Festival of New American Plays.



THE VARSITY THEATRE COMPANY

The Varsity Theatre Company is a New York-based collaboration formed with the intent of creating work that stimulates the modern audience through detailed exploration of characters and their humanity. Believing that the political is personal and that philosophies are often defined by social interactions, The Varsity seeks to engage with the large, sweeping questions of our society from the ground up through developing new work and generating new interpretations of existing texts. Central to The Varsity's mission is its focus on experimenting with and pushing the boundaries of how theater uses visceral elements - sound, movement, duration, etc. - to replicate human emotion and the human experience.

Next Up at The Varsity - July 2023 - Existing Works Reading

Read more at: www.varsitytheatrecompany.org

PRODUCED WITH THE SUPPORT OF

AIDAN CARR, CYNTHIA CARR, LEIGH OWENS,
RACHEL ROBISON, MARC WALLMAN, CYNTHIA WILSON

The Varsity Theatre Company is a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas, a non-profit arts service organization.

SPECIAL THANKS

GILL BASS, THE DRAMATISTS GUILD FOUNDATION,
KAROLINE, LAUREN KOESTER, KEVIN LIN, JULIAN MULLER,
ROUNDABOUT THEATRE COMPANY, RICHARD SCOTT, EDWARD VECCHIO,
ADIN WALKER, ASHLEY MILLING, SEAN CERCONE, ASHLEY THOMAS,
AMARA BRADY, RASHAD BAILEY, JESSICA HART, BLOOMS TAVERN,
THE TANK, THE TDF COSTUME COLLECTION,
& ALL OF VARSITY'S DONORS AND SUPPORTERS



CURATOR'S NOTE



Welcome to The Varsity Theatre Company's production of ***Shedding Load***. I was drawn to this project by the producer's commitment to creating theater that can both entertain and still address large, sweeping questions of our society. This show examines the change in a family and their neighborhood over the course of several decades, and demonstrates the real effect that gentrification has had on neighborhoods like Bushwick. Through the complex issues that this community faces, we can't help but to reflect on the roles we play in our own neck of the woods.

Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director

59E59 THEATERS STAFF

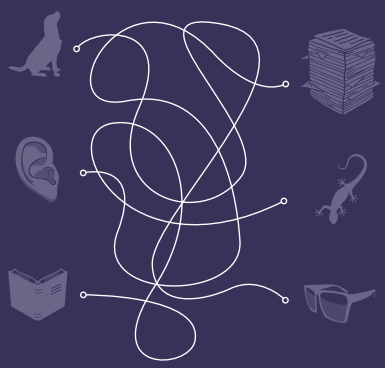
ELYSABETH KLEINHANS President/Founding Artistic Director
VAL DAY Artistic Director
BRIAN BEIRNE Managing Director
ELIZA JOHNSON Finance Associate/Office Manager
KWAMÉ BERRY Receptionist/Administrative Assistant
MELISSA SHAWCROSS Technical Director
ERICA PIERRE Marketing/General Manager
CRISTINA GREENFIELD Marketing Manager
MELINDA GRABER Digital Marketing Associate
CATE PUGLIA Marketing & Audience Devlopment Coordinator
ALAN BUTTAR Graphic Designer
MATT ROSS PUBLIC RELATIONS General Press Representative
SHANNON SMITH Theater Manager
COLLEEN MORGEN House Manager
CARLOS CONILL Facilities Manager
WALDIN ROJAS Facilities Assistant
FRANKIE DIAZ Facilities Assistant
LLOYD MULVEY Director of Ticketing Services
CRAIG SCHENKER Box Office Manager
ANDREA ARVANIGIAN Box Office Supervisor
JORDAN ELMAN Box Office Supervisor/Bartender
DANIELLE COVINGTON Box Office Supervisor
CAILIN KELLY Box Office Associate
ALANIS MOLINA-GARNELO Box Office Associate/Usher
MICIAH WALLACE Box Office Associate/Usher
ANNA BONGARDINO Usher
ANNE RUTTER Usher
BENJI SILLS Usher
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KAYLA GRANT Usher
NATALIE LILAVOIS YUSTY Usher
RICHARD RODRIGUEZ Usher
SANTIAGO AGUILAR Usher
LYNDSAY CORBETT Bartender
JULIA MELLONI Bartender
KEVIN MOLICA Bartender
KAITLYN CHEN Theater Technician
JOHN D. IVY Theater Technician
KAT KHELLBLAU Theater Technician

NEXT IN THEATER C — MARCH 2 - 19

The Hearth
presents

brainsmash

By Sophie Weisskoff
Directed by Emma Miller



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

59E59 Theaters reside on the traditional homelands of the Lenni-Lenape People on the Lenape Island of Mannahatta. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of the land who were forcefully removed during colonization resulting in erased and excluded peoples and culture. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on the land and honor their elders, past and present alongside future generations for their stewardship and continuing relationship with their territory.

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