



*An innocent
high school crush
snowballs into a
life-changing
moment.*

URBAN STAGES Presents
MainLine Theatre's Production of

GRATITUDE

Written by Oren Safdie
Directed by Maria Mileaf

June 5–30, 2022

URBAN STAGES PRESENTS MAINLINE THEATRE'S
NY PREMIERE OF

GRATITUDE

BY Oren Safdie

DIRECTED BY Maria Mileaf

Starring Jalen Ford, Jake Bryan Guthrie,
Erik Larsson & Aline Salloum

Neil Patel Scenic Designer

Laurie Churba Costume Designer

Greg MacPherson Lighting Designer

Bart Fasbender Sound Design Consultant

Thomas Schall Fight Consultant

Madeleine Burrow Scenic Artist

Kim T. Sharp Technical Director

Jaime Terrazzino Assistant Technical

Fiona Misiura Stage Manager

Sky Trela Assistant Stage Manager

Joe Trentacosta, JT Public Relations Press Rep

Sylvia Haber, Perpetuart Graphic Design

OTHER CREDITS

Sound Liaison Joe Austria
Electrician..... Joseph Phair

URBAN STAGES

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MAINLINE THEATRE

Artistic Director.....Amy Blackmore

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CAST

JoshJalen Ford
Ben.....Jake Bryan Guthrie
DrewErik Larsson
NajafAline Salloum

TIME: PRESENT

PLACE: A PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL IN MONTREAL

WHO'S WHO

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

JALEN FORD (Josh) hails from Alexandria, Virginia, and is a Theatre major at Columbia University ('23). He is extremely grateful to be playing Josh in *Gratitude* for his Off-Broadway debut. His non-academic credits currently include *27 Moths* by Tracy Carns (La Mama Umbria) and *Jolie Rouge* by Cindy L. Parrish. He also promised that he would thank his mother in his bio, so: Thanks, Mom!

Jake Bryan Guthrie (Ben), born and raised in Wild and Wonderful West Virginia, is ecstatic to be back in live theatre in the greatest city in the world. Jake is a recent graduate from the New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts, and is known for putting new work on its feet such as: *Ashes to Ashes: A New Musical* (New York Theatre Barn), *Storming Heaven: The Musical* (WV Public Theatre) and now... *Gratitude*. Thank you to Oren Safdie, Urban Stages, and Maria Mileaf for this opportunity. Thank you to Mollie O'Mara, Family, and Megan my love.

ERIK LARSSON (Drew) hailing from Boulder, CO, is a rising Senior at Columbia University. University theater credits include *The 126th Varsity Show*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *The Sandbox*, and *Macbeth*. He'd like to thank Oren, Maria, and the whole production team for making this possible; the cast for their trust and dedication; Gisela, Crystal, and other theater faculty at Barnard; and his lovely and supportive parents.

ALINE SALLOUM (Najaf) is an NYC-based actress who has performed in a range of countries, including Lebanon, Switzerland, and the United States. She is a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts NY and was

a member of the 2018/19 Academy Company. Her NYC credits include *The Meltdown*, at Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, *Only Remains Remain*, at the Greater New York exhibition, and *The Misanthrope*, with Moliere in the Park.

OREN SAFDIE (Playwright) attended the Graduate School of Architecture at Columbia University before turning his attention to writing. *Private Jokes, Public Places* was an off-Broadway/London hit sent shock waves through the architecture community. (The Wall Street Journal named it as one of the top ten new plays of the decade.) His next play, *The Last Word*, also ran off-Broadway and starred Daniel J. Travanti. Other New York productions include *Unseamly* (Urban Stages), *West Bank, Uk, Jews & Jesus, False Solution, The Bilbao Effect* and *La Compagnie*, which he developed into a ½-hour pilot for CBS. As a screenwriter, Oren scripted the film *You Can Thank Me Later* starring Ellen Burstyn and the Israeli Film *Bittersweet*. His new film *The Sunflower*, directed by Emil Ben-Shimon (The Women's Balcony) starts shooting in July. Oren has also taught Playwriting and Screenwriting at the University of Miami, Douglas College, CSArts, Interlochen Arts Academy and St. Olaf College. He's thrilled to be reunited with the original team of *Private Jokes*, and thankful to Frances Hill and Urban Stages for hosting another of his productions.

MARIA MILEAF (Director) is thrilled to be back in the theatre and working again with Oren Safdie. She directed the premiere of his *Private Jokes Public Places* at the Center for Architecture in 2003! In NYC she has directed at Playwrights Horizons, The Vineyard, Primary Stages, New Georges, WP Theater and The Play Company.

NEIL PATEL (Scenic Designer) is pleased to be working with Maria Mileaf with whom he has been collaborating since 1984. Current projects include "Pretty Little Liars: Original Sin" for HBO Max and *Theater of the Mind* created by David Byrne and Mala Goankar. Notable past television and film projects include "Dickinson" for AppleTV+ (Peabody Award), "The Path" for Hulu, "In Treatment" for HBO (Peabody Award) and *Little Boxes* for Netflix. Award winning designs for theater, dance and opera have been seen on Broadway, the West End and throughout the world and include the recent productions of *Mughal E Azam* in Mumbai, New Delhi, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, *Father Comes Home from The Wars* (PARTS 1,2&3) at the Royal Court in London and *Time and The Conways* on Broadway. Exhibition designs include *Space Force Construction* for the VAC Foundation at the Palazzo Zattere which was included in the 2017 Venice Biennale.

LURIE CHURBA (Costume Designer) has been a costume designer in theatre, television and film for 30 years and is currently a faculty costume designer/professor at Dartmouth College where she also teaches devised theater. Laurie was on the design team at "Saturday Night Live" for 11 seasons where she designed costumes for commercial parodies, short films and celebrity photo shoots as well as live skits. She has also been a designer for various independent films. Broadway credits: *The Price*.

GREG MACPHERSON (Lighting Designer) is a member of Ensemble Studio Theatre where he designed the annual Marathon of One-Act Plays from 1985 through 2003 and again in 2010, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19. Other designs include *Killer Joe* at Soho Rep, *The Hotel Play* at LaMama ETC, *The Pitchfork Disney* at Here and *Easter for Naked Angels*. He recently designed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Cinderella* for Ballet Memphis,

The Cradle Will Rock as a benefit for The Acting Company, *Meet Me* at the Plaza for Shuffles, and *Halcyon Days* at ART NY. Greg has designed for The 52nd Street Project since 1986 and taught lighting design at Sarah Lawrence College since 1990. He is very pleased to be working again with Maria Mileaf.

Thomas Schall (Fight Consultant): Broadway: Over 100 shows... *Company*, *A Soldier's Play* (Drama Desk award, fight choreography), *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Network*, *True West*, *Jitney*, *War Horse*, *Romeo And Juliet*... Off Broadway: At NYTW- *Othello* (Drama Desk nomination, fight choreography), *Red Speedo*. At Park Ave Armory- *The Hairy Ape* (Drama Desk nomination fight choreography), *Judgement Day*. At the Public Theater- *Hamlet*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Othello*, *King Lear*, *Richard III*, *The Low Road*. At the Met Opera- *Nozze de Figaro*, *Il Trovatore*, *Tosca*, *Samson et Dalila*.

MADELEINE BURROW (Scenic Artist) is an NYC based production and lighting designer for theater, film, and photography. She has worked for Urban Stages on various projects over the past few years; most recently, *Charmed Life* (Lighting Design). Madeleine also works in the creative department at Element Music, an entertainment company (Instagram: @elementmusic). She and her creative partner Jaime Terrazzino have worked on various music videos and photo shoots, their favorite of which are their shoots with Plastik Magazine (Instagram: @jandm_pd).

KIM T. SHARP (Technical Director) works regularly with Urban Stages in their efforts to champion new works by artists of diverse cultural

backgrounds. His directing efforts include *Death of a Driver*, the NYC premiere here at Urban Stages and Ronan Noone's *The Atheist* starring Wolfgang Novogratz. He directed three productions featuring Francesca Ravera: *The Way We Get By* by Neil LaBute, *Blackbird* by David Harrower and *Constellations* by Nick Payne. He just returned from Rome where *Constellations* was recently remounted. As Urban's Technical Director, he supported the world premiere of *Charmed Life*, written and performed by Lori Brown Mirabal. He is grateful for the opportunity to work with the many artists that have contributed to *Gratitude*.

JAIME TERRAZZINO (Assistant Technical) is an NYC based production designer and scenic carpenter. She has worked on many projects for Urban Stages over the past few years including *The Atheist*, *Charmed Life* and various other short plays and series. She and her creative partner Madeleine Burrow are freelance production designers for theater, film, and photography (Instagram: @jandm_pd). Most recently, Jaime has worked as a production assistant and scenic carpenter for Plastik Magazine.

FIONA MISIURA (Stage Manager) is a recent graduate of Ramapo College of New Jersey where she studied Theater and History. This is her New York debut.

SKY TRELA (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior at Ramapo College of NJ studying Stage Management. Sky has previously stage managed *Tales from The Arabian Mice* and assistant stage managed *Everybody* and The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee at Ramapo College.

SYLVIA HABER (Graphic Designer) is a graphic designer and the owner of Perpetuart (perpetuart.com), a design studio in the Boston area dedicated to making a difference in a creative and meaningful way. Sylvia's approach to design is playful and vibrant, with a strong focus on visual storytelling through the use of dynamic color and composition. Sylvia is also the co-founder of No Empty Bedsides (noemptybedsides.com), a fundraising initiative that partners with the Pediatric Supportive and Palliative Care team at MassGeneral Hospital for Children and helps parents stay at their child's bedside during difficult times.

ABOUT URBAN STAGES

Urban Stages champions up-and-coming artists of diverse backgrounds, and ensures art, theater and education are available to all. We are an award-winning, not-for-profit, Off-Broadway Theatre Company founded in 1984 by current Artistic Director Frances Hill. Urban Stages has produced dozens of world, American, and N.Y. premieres, including a Pulitzer Prize finalist, and these plays/musicals often move on to larger venues and/or publication. Additionally, we hold an annual award-winning music festival, *Winter Rhythms*, and reach tens of thousands yearly with our Outreach programming (free play and art workshops for all ages in all five boroughs of NYC via libraries and available virtually). urbanstages.org

URBAN STAGES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lynn San Andres (President), Craig Horsley (Vice President), Thomas Hehman (Treasurer), Peggy O'Brien (Secretary), Eileen Begg, Mary Churchill, Mik Chwalek, April Gow, Frances Hill, Martha Sproule & Tom Toce.

ABOUT MAINLINE THEATRE

Mainline Theatre is a hub of multidisciplinary and indie performing arts located in the heart of Montreal's vibrant Plateau-Mont-Royal neighborhood. With Amy Blackmore at the helm as Executive and Artistic Director, the company exists to support the development of the performing arts by favouring artistic practice and models of production centred around the democratization of the arts. It supports artists through its leadership in the community and by providing opportunities for presentation, professional development and affordable space availability. Famous for its annual production of Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show*, MainLine's recent presentations have included *Gratitude* by Oren Safdie, *Malunderstood* by Kenny Streule and the award-winning *Sapientia* by Scapegoat Carnivale.

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