How I Learned to Drive by Paula Vogel

Directed by Kayla Adams

Producer
Kathy Scambiatterra

Assistant Director
Alexander McRae

Technical Director
Alex Hutson

Stage Manager
Sara Ann Dickey

Scenic and Properties Design
Kevin Rolfs

Costume Design
Hailey Rakowiecki

Lighting/Projection Design
Mark Bracken

Sound Design
Zack Berinstein

Original Music
Zack Berinstein

How I Learned to Drive is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

How I Learned to Drive received its world premiere at the Vineyard Theatre, New York City.

Off-Broadway production produced by the Vineyard Theatre in association with Daryl Roth and Roy Gabay.

This play was made possible by generous support from the Pew Charitable Trust and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation.

It was written and developed at the Perseverance Theatre, Juneau, Alaska, Molly Smith, Artistic Director.
CAST

Li’L Bit ........................................................................................................................................... Elizabeth Birnkrant
Peck ................................................................................................................................................... John Mossman+
Male Greek Chorus ........................................................................................................................ Reid Coker +
Female Greek Chorus ..................................................................................................................... Jenna Steege
Teenage Greek Chorus ................................................................................................................... Kelley Holcomb

+ denotes Artistic Home ensemble member

Understudies: Jenifer Henry (Li’L Bit); Martin Holt (Peck);
Stephen Bromfield (Male Greek Chorus); Alexa Castelvecchi (Female Greek Chorus);
Brewington Rosenblatt (Teenage Greek Chorus)

The play will be performed without an intermission.

SPECIAL THANKS

Rich Brown, The Chicago High School for the Arts, Lindsey Becker, The Saints

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director ........................................................................................................................................... Kayla Adams+
Producer .......................................................................................................................................... Kathy Scambiatterra+
Assistant Director ........................................................................................................................ Alexander McRae
Technical Director ......................................................................................................................... Alex Hutson
Stage Manager ............................................................................................................................... Sara Ann Dickey
Scenic and Properties Designer ...................................................................................................... Kevin Rolfs
Costume Designer .......................................................................................................................... Hailey Rakowiecki
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Sound Designer ............................................................................................................................. Zack Berinstein
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ENSEMBLE

Devon Carson, Reid Coker, Laura Coleman, Kristin Collins, Brookelyn Hebert, Julian Hester, Annie Hogan, John LaFlamboy, John Mossman, Tim Musachio, Frank Nall, Mark Pracht, Kathy Scambiatterra, David Vogel, Scott Westerman

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CAST BIOGRAPHIES

ELIZABETH BIRNKRANT (Li’l Bit)
Elizabeth Birnkrant is delighted to work with The Artistic Home for the first time. Chicago credits include Monster (u/s), 1984, The Water Engine, and The Berlin Circle (Steppenwolf); Harvey (u/s, Court Theatre); Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train (Eclipse); Vices and Virtues (Profiles); Ghost Gardens (Pegasus); The Revenants (Wildclaw); Darlin’ (Step Up); The Gacy Play (Sideshow); Sis3ters (Roadworks), and work with Theater on the Lake, Stage Left, Chicago Dramatists, City Lit, Stage 773, LiveWire, CIC, and First Floor Theater. Television: Chicago Fire. Elizabeth is a graduate of The University of Chicago.

REID COKER (Male Greek Chorus)
Reid Coker is a proud ensemble member of The Artistic Home. AH credits include Wedding Band (The Bellman), The School For Lies (Dubois/Basque), The Time of Your Life (The Drunkard), also Rainbow Sprinkles and Greynold from 2015/16’s Cut to the Chase one-act play festivals. Other theater credits include Theater Oobleck, The Annoyance Theater, Second City TC, Azusa Productions, McCleod Theater & The Journeymen. Film credits include All My Friends Are Funerals, an Official Selection of the Sundance Film Festival (2011). Also a musician and songwriter, Reid performs as solo artist and has toured and recorded with acts like The Bitter Tears, Califone, Void of Sabbath, The Pillowhammer, Tijuana Hercules and Fruit Bats. Thanks to Kathy, Kayla, Patrick Thornton, Mary Ann Thebus, Anne and Woody. Special thanks to the formidable folks of the AH Ensemble.

KELLEY HOLCOMB (Teenage Greek Chorus)
Kelley is delighted to join this wonderful cast in her Artistic Home debut. Some Chicago credits include: Lucentio in The Taming of the Shrew (Odds & Ends), Alais in Lion in Winter (MadKap Productions), Ensemble in La Boheme (Kor Productions) and choreographer and performer for Ex-Pats Theatre’s 20 hour project. She has also been lucky enough to perform with many talented sketch groups in shows at Second City, Stage 773, Theatre Momentum and Gorilla Tango. Kelley holds her BFA in Musical Theatre from Auburn University and is a graduate of i.o.’s summer program. Love to the cast and crew!
JOHN MOSSMAN (Peck)
John Mossman is co-founder of The Artistic Home where he has appeared in the title role of Macbeth, Shannon in Night of the Iguana, Modigliani, Quentin in After The Fall, and as Peer Gynt, for which he received an Equity Jeff Nomination. He also played Atticus Finch in OPFT’s To Kill A Mockingbird, has appeared at Steppenwolf, Seanachai, and Provision Theaters, and regionally at Actors Theater of Louisville, Madison Rep and Lakeside Shakespeare where he recently portrayed Leontes in The Winter’s Tale. He has acted in films and on television, and has directed numerous productions at The Artistic Home and elsewhere, most recently By The Bog Of Cats and Paddy Chayefsky’s The Goddess, for which he received an Equity Jeff Award for New Adaptation. He has directed or produced dozens of short films and documentaries and directed the award winning indie thriller Into The Wake. He teaches at the Harold Ramis Film School and Columbia College Film Department, runs the youth mentorship program SouthSide FYI, and recently traveled to Thailand where he taught Meisner Technique at Mahidol University.

JENNA STEEGE (Female Greek Chorus)
Jenna Steege is honored to return to The Artistic Home! Recent stage credits include The School for Lies (u/s The Artistic Home), Broken Record: A Contemporary Musical (Stage 773), Miracle on 34th Street: A Radio Play (The Artistic Home), and TAPPED: A Treasonous Musical Comedy (Theatre Wit); and film credits Crossed and Logging Town. She is a graduate of the Second City Training Center’s House Ensemble, Conservatory and Musical Improv programs, iO, the Annoyance, and The Artistic Home’s Meisner program. By day, Jenna is The Second City’s Learning & Development Manager, focused on wellness (improv for anxiety, ASD, etc.), professional development and professional actor programs. Jenna is represented by Gill Talent: http://www.castingnetworks.com/jennasteege. Loving gratitude to Tilliski, Eden, the TeaCup and the Beast, and Gilly (yes, she thanked her cat in this super profesh bio...).

STEPHEN BROMFIELD (Male Greek Chorus U/S)
Stephen is an actor and singer hailing from the Tennessee mountains. After studying theatre, music, and psychology at Lake Forest College, Stephen leapt into the Chicago comedy scene writing and performing all over. Stephen completed the training program at The Artistic Home last December. Previous Artistic Home credits include Clitander (U/S) in The School for Lies. He is grateful to be working with the Artistic Home again.

ALEXA CASTELVECCHI (Female Greek Chorus U/S)
Alexa is super pumped to be breaking in her understudying boots here at the Artistic Home. She was last seen in Hell in a Handbag’s RIP Nelson Holiday Spectacular and Christmas Dearest, where she parodied Liza Minelli and a young Joan Crawford; as well as Quest Theatre Ensemble’s production of The People’s History of the United States as Lady Liberty. Having taken Meisner for the last couple years at AH, she is excited to be finally putting all her learned skills to the test. Alexa will be playing young Liza in a Live Tribute Show based on the 1964 London Palladium concert of Judy Garland and her daughter, up at The Palace Theatre in Wisconsin Dells this October. Alexacastelvecchi.com

JENIFER HENRY (Li’l Bit U/S)
Jen is very excited to be a part of the Artistic Home’s production of How I Learned to Drive! She was last on stage here in 2015’s Cut to the Chase. Jen is a company member of The Strange Tree Group and went with them to the New York Fringe Festival as Mrs. Martinetti in The Three Faces of Doctor Crippen, winner of the Fringe Excellence Award for Overall Play,
2014 and Steppenwolf Garage Rep series, 2011. Some of her favorite roles include Lady Macbeth (Transcendent Ensemble), Nora in A Dolls House (Interrobang Theatre) and Pea in The Dead Prince (STG). Jen has a theater degree from Butler University, is an alumnus of The National Theatre Institute and has studied with the Royal Shakespeare Company and The Artistic Home. Jen would like to thank her husband, Stuart Ritter, for all his amazing love and support.

MARTIN HOLT (Peck U/S)
Martin is a Chicago based actor and graduate of UIUC - he is thrilled to be working again with The Artistic Home on this timely and important play. Recent Chicago stage credits include By the Bog of Cats (Xavier U/S), and Glory in the Flower (Joker). Martin would like to thank Kathy Scambiattera and all the folks at The Artistic Home for this opportunity, his family for their support and of course Tanya for her continued patience and encouragement.

BREWINGTON ROSENBLETT (Teenage Greek Chorus U/S)
Brewington makes her Chicago theatre debut and is so honored to be working with The Artistic Home on How I Learned to Drive. She received her B.F.A in Acting from Roosevelt University and is proudly represented by Gill Talent. She sends special thanks to all involved in making this production possible and to you for coming to see the show!

KAYLA ADAMS (Director)
Kayla Adams is the Associate Artistic Director of The Artistic Home ensemble; her AH credits include: directing Miracle on 34th St., curating and directing for Cut to the Chase, and assistant directing The School for Lies. Other directing credits include Quality: The Shoe Play (Bellingham Theatre Works), Topdog/Underdog (assistant director, Bellingham TheatreWorks), Office Hours (The Idiom Theatre), The Last 5 Years (Vocal Studio of Jay Rosenthal) and The Aliens (National Autonomous University of Mexico).
Kayla holds a degree in Theatre Arts from Western Washington University. Academic directing credits include Mr. Marmalade, The Dumb Waiter, God of Carnage, A Streetcar Named Desire, and How I Learned to Drive (assistant director). Love to Kathy Scambiattera and Paula Vogel.

ZACK BERINSTEIN (Sound/Original Music Designer)
Zack Berinstein is a Chicago-based sound designer, audio engineer, and composer who is excited to be back at the Artistic Home! In addition to recording and producing artists in the Midwest, other recent sound design credits include Wedding Band at The Artistic Home, Souvenir with Milwaukee Rep, Annie and Hot Mikado with Skylight Music Theatre, Forty Two Stories with City Lit Theater, and Little Flower of East Orange with Eclipse Theatre. You can find him on the internet at ZackBear.com.

MARK BRACKEN (Lighting/Projection Designer)
Mark J. Bracken Jr. - Mark is thrilled to be working on his first show with The Artistic Home. Mark currently serves as the Production Manager and Technical Director for The Chicago High School for the Arts and the Director of Production for Refuge Theatre Project. He also works as a freelance designer, production manager, and technical director. Favorite credits include Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon (Scenic), Things to Ruin (Lighting) Nocturne (Scenic and Lighting), West Side Story (Scenic and Lighting), and [title of show] (Lighting). Upcoming: The Spitfire Grill (Refuge Theatre Project) and Future Echos (Wild Claw). Many thanks to the entire production team, as well as The Artistic Home.
SARA ANN Dickey (Stage Manager)
Sara Ann Dickey (Stage Manager) hails from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She just finished her B.A. in Theatre from Columbia College Chicago, and she’s thrilled to be working on her first production with The Artistic Home. Sara is part of the event staff at Adventure Stage Chicago, as well as a mentor teaching artist with their Trailblazers ensemble where she has stage managed their last three productions: Among Us, Turn the Page, and On Air. Her directing credits include That Almost Unnameable Lust (Columbia College) Shelter (Hella Theatre) Faust Fatale (Hella Theatre) the world premier of Sight Unseen (Adventure Stage Chicago) as the assistant director to the wonderful Rives Collins, as well as The Size of the World as the assistant director to the marvelous Adam Goldstein. Her true passion in theatre lies in bringing the art and the resulting skills into communities that can benefit from it.

ALEXANDER MCRAE (Assistant Director)
is a native of Vancouver, Washington. This is his first production with The Artistic Home and he is beyond grateful for the opportunity! He received his B.A. in Theatre with a concentration in Acting from Western Washington University. Previous directing credits as assistant director include Seminar under Evan Mueller with Western Summer Theatre and God of Carnage with Garden St. Theatre. Academic acting credits include Equus (Alan), Streamers (Richie), and As You Like It (Duke Fredrick). Chicago acting credits include The Public House Theatre: Mr. Lee’s Night of Horrors and The Best Western This Side of the Mississippi. He plans on continuing his career on the Chicago stage. He hopes this story of pain, laughter and wounds from our past moves us toward a greater awareness of our duty to our fellow man.

HAILEY RAKOWIECKI (Costume Designer)
Hailey Rakowiecki is thrilled to work with The Artistic Home. Recent Chicago design credits include: Five Mile Lake (Shattered Globe), Hellcab (Agency Theatre), The Heavens Are Hung In Black (Shattered Globe), The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity (Red Theater), Macbeth (Oak Park Festival Theatre), Taming of the Shrew (the Arc Theatre). Hailey is a recent graduate of The Theatre School, having earned her BFA in Costume Design and Technology in June. She is also a Wigmaker, having earned both Wigs and Hair Chicago program certificates.

KEVIN ROLFS (Scenic and Properties Designer)
Kevin Rolfs is a Chicago scenic artist and recent graduate of Columbia College Chicago. Kevin is thrilled to be back working with The Artistic Home; his work was most recently seen in their production of Wedding Band: A Love/Hate Story in Black and White. Other recent Chicago credits include A Midsummer Night’s Dream at College of Lake County, Little Red Cyranо with Red Theater and Othello with Invictus Theater Co. Thanks to my wonderful Artistic Home Family for having me.

KATHY SCAMBIATTERRA (Artistic Director)
Kathy Scambiatterra is Artistic Director and co-founder of The Artistic Home Theater and Acting Studio, Chicago. She has helmed over 18 seasons of acclaimed, Jeff-nominated and After Dark Award winning productions for The Artistic Home. Chicago acting credits include: The Artistic Home, Steppenwolf Theatre, Drury Lane Oakbrook, Chicago Shakespeare, Goodman Theatre, among others. TV/Film credits: recurring role on Chicago PD, Philip K. Dick’s Electric Dreams, Into the Wake. She has received 4 leading role Jeff Award nominations; LA Dramalogue and After Dark award for direction. Ms. Scambiatterra is the director of the actor training program at The Artistic Home Studio. In addition, she has taught at The School at Steppenwolf, Columbia College, Center Theater’s The Training Center, Chicago, IL; Carolyn Berry Studio, The Pacific Resident Theatre LA, CA; Director’s Symposium, US Army, Heidelberg, Germany; Screen Training Ireland, Dublin, Ireland; Chicago High School for the Arts, Classical Conservatory.
PAULA VOGEL (Playwright)
Paula Vogel won the Pulitzer Prize, New York Drama Critics Award, Obie Award, Lucille Lortel, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle for *How I Learned To Drive*. Her play *Indecent* was produced on Broadway in 2017 and earned a Tony Award® nomination for Best Play and a Drama Desk nomination for Outstanding Play. Her other plays include *A Civil War Christmas, The Long Christmas Ride Home, The Mineola Twins, Hot ‘N’ Throbbin, The Baltimore Waltz, Desdemona, And Baby Makes Seven, and The Oldest Profession*. Vogel’s plays have been produced in New York by Second Stage, New York Theatre Workshop, the Vineyard Theatre, Roundabout, and Circle Repertory Company; and regionally all over the country at such prestigious theater companies as the Center Stage, Intiman, Trinity Repertory, Woolly Mammoth, Huntington Theatre, Magic Theatre, The Goodman Theatre, American Repertory Theatre, Dallas Theatre Berkeley Repertory, and Alley Theatres to name a few. Internationally, her plays have been produced in Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand as well as translated and produced in Italy, Germany, Taiwan, South Africa, Australia, Romania, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovenia, Canada, Portugal, France, Greece, Japanese, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Peru, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Brazil and other countries. Ms. Vogel is also honored by three Awards in her name: the Paula Vogel Award for playwrights given by The Vineyard Theatre, the Paula Vogel Award from the American College Theatre Festival, and the Paula Vogel mentorship program, curated by Quiara Hudes and Young Playwrights of Philadelphia.

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