I AND YOU
by Lauren Gunderson

Directed by
David Cecsarini

Scenic Design
Rick Rasmussen

Lighting Design
Mike Van Dreser

Costume Design
Lyndsey Kuhlmann

Sound Design
David Cecsarini

Properties Design
Heidi Salter & Shannon Sloan-Spice

Stage Manager
Jessica Connelly*

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association

April 5 – 29, 2018

Generously sponsored by Sheldon and Marianne Lubar and Larry and Patty Compton with additional support from the Briggs & Stratton Corporation Foundation.

I AND YOU is supported in part by a grant from the Milwaukee Arts Board and the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin.

Next Act Theatre’s 2017-18 Season is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

I AND YOU was first produced in a rolling world premiere by Marin Theatre Company (California), Olney Theatre (Maryland), and Phoenix Theatre (Indiana) as part of the National New Play Network’s Continued Life program.

It was originally commissioned and developed by South Coast Repertory.

I AND YOU is produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com)

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.

Next Act Theatre | 255 S. Water Street | Milwaukee, WI 53204
Anthony ............................................................................................................. Ibraheem Farmer
Caroline ........................................................................................................... Cristina Panfilio*

*member of Actors’ Equity Association

TIME:
Now

PLACE:
In our city, in Caroline’s room.

The play will be performed without intermission.

SPECIAL THANKS

Tom McKay and Avenue Fabricare, Dr. Marshall Beckman and Julia Uihlein with the Medical College of Wisconsin

Special thanks to First Stage for its assistance in casting First Stage Fellow Ibraheem Farmer in this production.

Opening Night Reception Sponsor

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It is my very great fortune to be the father of two wonderful girls. At ages 10 and nearly-15, they are in the midst of their awakening journeys, discovering more about the world and themselves each and every day. And despite their chronically messy rooms, dishes in the sink and switches never, ever used to turn the lights OFF, I am alternately amazed, stunned, surprised and proud of their smarts, their sassiness, resourcefulness, resilience and hearts that love easily.

Lauren Gunderson introduces us to another stunning young lady in I AND YOU. When we meet her, she’s not at her best. Years of living with a chronic illness have made this teenager angry – at her body, at the world, at life – for their collective betrayal. And it’s understandable. As Gunderson describes her, she is “my dear prickly, cranky, totally valid young female firebrand Caroline.” Anger fuels determination; she has turned her room into an emotional fortress, the one place she can still control, validated by her art, her music and the ever-present phone that is her lifeline. She is hunkered down.

Into this bastion of teenage angst walks Anthony, an impressive young man in his own right. Though he matches Caroline in strength of character and determination, his is a calmer, steadier approach to life. That will come in handy.

While addressing a homework assignment, the two teens embark on their own awakening journey, chaperoned by the poetic wisdom of Walt Whitman. His generosity of spirit and belief in the human connection as fundamental is absorbed as the life-altering wisdom that will change them forever. The two young people embody a glorious, shining example of what is essential about humanity.

These days, young people are speaking up. Staring out from their young souls, where youth and maturity collide, they are examining the world which will soon be theirs; a world formed by their elders, full of conflict and contradictions, bountiful but imbalanced, at odds with itself. They sense it’s a world that needs their help. I can only hope that there will be enough Carolines and Anthonys, daughters like mine, sons like yours, all our children, speaking, singing, yawping, and helping us rediscover where human life finds true meaning.
TOP GIRLS
By Caryl Churchill

APRIL 6 - 29, 2018

A sharp, imaginative, and profound examination of the choices women continue to face on their journey to success.

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LAUREN GUNDERSON (Playwright)
Lauren Gunderson is the most produced living playwright in America, the winner of the Lanford Wilson Award and the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award, a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and John Gassner Award for Playwriting, and a recipient of the Mellon Foundation’s 3-Year Residency with Marin Theatre Co. She studied Southern Literature and Drama at Emory University, and Dramatic Writing at NYU’s Tisch School where she was a Reynolds Fellow in Social Entrepreneurship. Her work has been commissioned, produced and developed at companies across the US including the Denver Center (THE BOOK OF WILL), South Coast Rep (EMILIE, SILENT SKY), The Kennedy Center (THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF DR. WONDERFUL AND HER DOG!), the O’Neill Theatre Center, Berkeley Rep, Shotgun Players, TheatreWorks, Crowded Fire, San Francisco Playhouse, Marin Theatre, Synchronicity, Olney Theatre, Geva, and more. Her work is published by Dramatists Play Service (SILENT SKY, BAUER), Playscripts (I AND YOU; EXIT, PURSUED BY A BEAR; and TOIL AND TROUBLE), and Samuel French (EMILIE). She is a Playwright in Residence at The Playwrights Foundation, and a proud Dramatists Guild member. She is from Atlanta, GA, and lives in San Francisco. LaurenGunderson.com and @LalaTellsAStory.

IBRAHEEM FARMER (Anthony)
Making his Next Act debut, Ibraheem is very excited to portray Anthony in I AND YOU. This season he currently serves as First Stage’s Academy Teaching Artist Fellow and is grateful to Jeff Frank, Katie Cummings and his First Stage family for allowing him to pursue this opportunity. Ibraheem is a proud recent graduate of Grambling State University where some of his credits include: THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AND THE FACE OF EMMETT TILL as Emmett Till, BLUES FOR AN ALABAMA SKY as Leland Cunningham, and Bo Decker in BUS STOP. He previously understudied as The Man in First Stage’s production of THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE. Ibraheem credits his continued success to God, hard work and love and support from family and friends.

CRISTINA PANFILIO (Caroline)
This is Cristina’s second production with Next Act, where she had the good fortune of being a part of last season’s THE OTHER PLACE. She makes her home in Chicago and can be found working regionally with theaters such as: Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Renaissance Theaterworks, American Players Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Northlight Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival, Utah Shakespeare Festival and Riverside Theater. Cristina holds a BFA from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

DAVID CECSARINI (Director/Sound Designer)
The 2017-2018 season marks David’s 39th year as a theatre professional, having debuted with the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis as a journeyman actor in 1978. He has proudly served as Producing Artistic Director for Milwaukee’s Next Act Theatre for 25 years and counting. David’s first directing assignment was the musical PERSONALS, for Theatre Tesseract, in 1989. He has since directed many Next Act productions; favorites include THE PAVILION, THE REAL THING, RED HERRING, SOMEONE WHO’LL WATCH OVER ME, THE DRESSER, ROOM SERVICE, SIDE MAN and TWILIGHT:

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A sharp, imaginative, and profound examination of the choices women continue to face on their journey to success.
LOS ANGELES, 1992. While directing, he usually doubles as Sound Designer; he has created sound effects and scores for over 100 professional productions. Favorites include LAST OF THE BOYS, MICROCRISIS, THE VOICE OF THE PRAIRIE, THE DRESSER, MARY’S WEDDING and THE BRIDGE AT MO DUC.

JESSICA CONNELLY (Resident Stage Manager)
Since 2006 Jessica has been the Resident Stage Manager for Next Act Theatre. She has stage managed 51 of the last 52 shows at Next Act. A few of Jessica's favorite projects include: DEAR ESTHER, MASTER HAROLD and the BOYS, LAST OF THE BOYS, MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP, GREETINGS, FAITH HEALER, PURGATORIO, GOING TO ST. IVES, VIGIL, THREE VIEWS OF THE SAME OBJECT, TWILIGHT; LOS ANGELES, 1992, BLOOMSDAY and SILENT SKY (Next Act Theatre), A RISING WIND (John Michael Kohler Arts Center), CHESAPEAKE, TROJAN WOMEN, THE SHAPE OF THINGS, and the US premiere of SKIN TIGHT (Renaissance Theaterworks), FENCES (Milwaukee Repertory Theater) SANTALAND DIARIES (Marcus Center for the Performing Arts), HAIRSPRAY (Little Theatre on the Square). Jessica is a proud member of Actors’ Equity Association.

RICK RASMUSSEN (Scenic Designer)
Calling Seattle, WA home, this former resident of Milwaukee travels the Midwest designing for various theatre companies. Rick has worked with the theatre artists at Next Act for 28 years and always finds their work stimulating and rewarding. Most recent design projects include THE TAMING, UnSILENT NIGHT, BLOOMSDAY, SILENT SKY, THE SECRET MASK (Next Act Theatre); BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, 42ND STREET and LEGALLY BLONDE (Fireside Dinner Theatre). He has also worked locally with Renaissance Theaterworks, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Skylight Music Theatre and In Tandem Theatre.

MIKE VAN DRESER (Lighting Designer/Technical Director)
Mike has served as Next Act Theatre’s Technical Director since the 2011-12 season, taking on the additional roles of Facility Manager and Rental Coordinator in the 2014-15 season. Previously Mike was the resident Master Electrician and Light Board Operator, beginning in 2005-06. Mike studied with renowned Lighting Designers Jason Fassl and Andrew Meyers and has done Lighting Design for NEXT ACTORS SUMMER THEATRE FOR TEENS, UnSILENT NIGHT, BRAVO, CARUSO!, IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE LIVE RADIO SHOW, PERFECT MENDACITY (Next Act Theatre), WHEN THE CURTAIN FALLS and KISS ME KATE (Greendale High School).

LYNDESEY KUHLMANN (Costume Designer)
Lyndsey is glad to be back at Next Act after 2013’s GROUCHO: A LIFE IN REVUE. Past design work includes CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG, HOLES and BAKER STREET IRREGULARS (among others) at First Stage; BACK HOME AGAIN at the Milwaukee Rep; and OUR TOWN at Cincinnati Shakespeare Company. She received her MFA in Costume Technology and Design from Ohio University, has worked regionally from Utah to Washington, DC and is now in her 9th season as Cutter/Draper in the costume shop at First Stage.

HEIDI SALTER (Properties Co-Designer)
Heidi Salter has been co-props designer for the past three seasons and is so happy to be back again this season working with her friends at Next Act. Heidi is also a freelance director and is the founder of Imagination Theatre in Germantown where she has directed some of her favorite shows (INTO THE WOODS,
DEATH OF A SALESMAN, RUN FOR YOUR WIFE and BAREFOOT IN THE PARK). When not doing theatre, Heidi enjoys watching her three daughters perform and grow into the next generation of amazing theatre artists.

SHANNON SLOAN-SPICE, Ph.D (Properties Co-Designer)
Shannon Sloan-Spice is pleased to be returning to Next Act Theatre as Props Master with her great partner-in-crime, Heidi Salter, for their fourth season! Shannon is best known as a theatre educator and directs many spring musicals around Greater Milwaukee. She was head-master and Lead Teacher at First Stage this summer. In 2015, she directed In Tandem’s first summer arts conservatory program. She splits her time between Milwaukee and Chicago and teaches World Mythologies at Oakton Community College, IL, where she is part of the new Environmental Studies Concentration.

ANNE LEHMER (Development Director)
A nonprofit fundraising professional since 2005, Anne became Development Director of Next Act in January of 2016. Previously, she held development positions at San Francisco State University in CA, and, the Nordic Heritage Museum, United Indians for All Tribes Foundation and the YWCA in Seattle, WA. She was an active member, advocate and volunteer in the Northwest Development Officers Association and the WA Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, eventually serving on the Board of Directors. She also served a teen mentoring organization, the Service Board, as a Board member and as Board Chair. Anne holds a B.A. in Anthropology from Mills College and a M.A. in Museum Studies, Fundraising and Administration, from San Francisco State University. Currently, Anne enjoys exploring our many local museums, historic architecture and green spaces, and the bounty of festivals, music, dance, ethnic and cultural events. That is, when she’s not puttering in her vegetable garden.

REBECCA MODER (Marketing Director)
Becky has been with Next Act Theatre since 2012. Before that she ran the marketing department at the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center. She holds a B.A. in Arts Management with a Business minor from UW-Stevens Point. When not at Next Act, Becky is spending time with family up north in Three Lakes, WI or working on home renovation projects with her husband, Tim.
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**BROADWAY SERIES**
$20 Adults, $18 Seniors/Students, $10 Youth
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**TARTUFFE** by Molière, Translated into English verse by Richard Wilbur
presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York
June *7, 8, 9, 14, 15, *21, 22, 23 - 7:30PM
When the imposter Tartuffe worms his way into a wealthy family and manipulates the patriarch into turning over his fortune, it’s up to his family to expose the con man before they all end up homeless and penniless!

**THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL**
bym Horton Foote
presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York
July *19, 20, 21, 26, 27, Aug *2, 3, 4 - 7:30PM
This simple but profound story follows the journey of Carrie Watts, an elderly woman struggling to escape the confines of the cramped apartment where she lives with her son and authoritarian daughter-in-law, so that she can visit her childhood home one more time before she dies.

**PRIDE AND PREJUDICE**
adapted by Jon Jory
produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com)
Aug *23, 24, 25, 30, 31, Sep 1, 2, *6, 7, 8 7:30PM
This fast-paced and engaging new adaptation captures all the wit, sophistication and romance of Jane Austen’s original novel. Will the handsome Mr. Darcy overcome his pride and will Elizabeth Bennet be able to look beyond her prejudice?

**24 HOUR SHAKE SPEARE**
SPECIAL EVENT
Sep 29 - 7:00PM at Serenity Farms
Join us for our fall fundraiser. In just 24 hours, a group of actors will randomly pick roles, memorize lines, rehearse, add costumes, lights, and sound, and perform THE TAMING OF THE SHREW. Don’t miss what is certain to be a very unique theatrical experience!

**MUSICAL THEATRE CAMP**
June 11 - June 15 - 8 to 14 year olds
Price $200

**YOUTH THEATRE CAMP**
July 30 - August 3 - 8 to 11 year olds
August 6 - August 10 - 12 to 14 year olds
Price $175

**MUSIC SERIES**
$15 Adults, $13 Seniors/Students, $7 Youth

**Party in the Park with Fun House**
Classic Rock
Saturday, June 2 - 4:00PM - Fundraiser Special Pricing

**Shattered**
Rolling Stones Tribute
Saturday, June 30 - 6:30PM

**The Lower 5th**
Americana, American Soul
Saturday, July 7 - 6:30PM

**WheelHouse Bluegrass**
Americana, Bluegrass
Saturday, July 14 - 6:30PM

**Random Acts of Comicality**
Comedy Musical Review
Friday, August 10 - 6:30PM

**Leahys Luck**
Irish Music
Saturday, August 11 - 6:30PM

**Whiskey Belles**
Country, Bluegrass
Saturday, August 18 - 6:30PM

**Another Night with Tony**
Broadway Musical Songs
Friday, September 14 - 6:30PM

**Chris Hanson Band w/ Robin Pluer**
Jazz, Swing, Western
Saturday, September 15 - 6:30PM

**FAMILY EVENTS**
Family Events are FREE

**Fun with Shakespeare**
Friday, June 29 – Workshop - 5:00PM
Play – TWELFTH NIGHT - 7:00PM

**Magic Show**
Friday, July 6 - 6:30PM

**Kohl’s Wild Theatre**
Tuesday, July 24 - 1:00PM

SummerStage is an outdoor theater in beautiful Lapham Peak State Park. Bring your own chair. You may also carry in food and beverages. We sell beer, wine, and snacks. Lapham Peak is located on Highway C one mile south of I-94 in Delafield, WI.

*Please note that there is a $5 park vehicle fee. It’s free if you have a state park sticker.*
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FOOD AND BEVERAGES – Drinks may be taken into the theatre, but food is not permitted.

ENTERING AND EXITING THE THEATRE SPACE – Please use walkways to access the seating areas and refrain from crossing over the stage.

CANCELLATION POLICY – Next Act does not cancel or reschedule performances due to inclement weather or sporting events, nor do we offer refunds.

LATECOMER POLICY – Latecomers will not be seated until an appropriate time in the performance. This may be at the intermission. **Seating may not be permitted 30 minutes after the start of a performance. If you are running late, please call the Ticket Office at 414-278-0765.**

LISTENING AUGMENTATION DEVICES – Please ask the House Manager on duty for assistance.

LOST PROPERTY – Items left at the theatre are kept in Lost & Found for 30 days. Call the Ticket Office at 414-278-0765 if you have lost an item.

TICKET EXCHANGES – Subscribers may exchange their tickets, without fee, up to 48 hours prior to the performance (price adjustments may apply). Single ticket buyers may exchange their tickets for a fee of $5 per ticket up to 48 hours prior. Exchanges are based strictly on availability. Patrons are strongly urged to request exchanges well in advance.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES – To avoid disturbing the performance, NO cameras or recording devices of any kind are allowed in the theatre. Please turn off all electronic equipment including pagers and cell phones.

EMERGENCY CALLS – In case of emergency, messages may be left with the House Manager by calling 414-278-0765. If possible, please indicate the seat location of the person to be reached.

SMOKING – The Next Act Theatre facility is a smoke-free environment.

STUDENT AND SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNTS – Seniors and students receive a $5 discount per ticket on advance sales. Students may also purchase half-price rush tickets with a valid student I.D. one half-hour prior to curtain, based on availability. Discounts are not available on performance run extensions.

GROUP DISCOUNTS – Groups of 10 or more receive a discount of 20%. To book groups, contact Becky at 414-278-7780. Discounts are not available on performance run extensions.
DOUBT
a parable
by John Patrick Shanley
directed by C. Michael Wright
featuring Colleen Madden,
April Paul, Malkia Stampley
& Marcus Truchinski

APRIL 12-29, 2018
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that leaves nothing certain!

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