The Children's Hour

written by Lillian Hellman

director Dylan K. Sladky
producer/costume designer Kira Renkas
stage manager Brandon Herr
assistant stage manager/set & props coordinator Robert Sharon
hair stylist Samantha Paige

Sponsored by: Paranet

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.
YOU GOT OLDER

WRITTEN BY Clare Barron
DIRECTED BY Maddi Conway

DATES & LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

TICKETS AT OUTSKIRTSTHEATRE.ORG
DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It has been 84 years since Lillian Hellman’s *The Children's Hour* was first produced on Broadway in 1934. I think it is very important to know how long it has been since this story was told for the first time, and keep that expanse of time in the back of your mind as you watch our production. We live in a very different world today, absolutely. We have gone through a second World War, the Civil Rights movement, Women’s Liberation, the Gay Rights movement, countless highs and lows for every group of people, communities of people; the proverbial “other” is becoming a smaller and smaller group as time marches forward.

At least, that is what many of us in my generation grew up believing. However, here we are in the now, and the now is beginning to look so strange and unfamiliar to us because, frankly, none of us were born yet or old enough to have clear memories and opinions of the world pre-1985. We are 20-somethings and 30-somethings. Relative children compared to the decades or centuries of persecution, oppression, rampant hatred, and silencing of any deemed as “other” throughout history. We were raised in a time where differences between men and women, straights and gays, people of color and whites; differences between people were eschewed and instead we were taught that people were people and every person deserves to be treated with respect, the same respect we would expect in return.

Hellman has accomplished something truly remarkable with her words and we have the ability today to match these words with action and purpose. Unfortunately, that purpose is not a happy endeavor. Because despite the strides we have made as a culture and society, despite the way we were raised to respect the differences between us, and despite stories like *The Children's Hour* being told for 84 years we now find ourselves in a place where those strides, those beliefs, are being strained daily.

It is hard to know what Lillian Hellman set out to do with this play. It is much simpler to set out what I am hoping to do with this play. It is simply this: we need to listen to those we disagree with and recognize them as fellow people. We need to stand up and fight for those who are forced to accept a place where they are unable to fight for themselves. We need to continue our edification of younger generations that we are all flesh and bone and blood and that anything beyond those inherent similarities need to be celebrated, not vilified. This work may seem frivolous to many, but the work is important to me, these artists, this team, and this company, and we all sincerely hope you enjoy the show.

Dylan K. Sladky

SPECIAL THANKS

Steve Decker, Margot Lange, Molly Snyder, Milwaukee Entertainment Group, Amanda Hull, Tom Marks, Kelly Rudy, Josh Taylor, Jim Guy, Linda Kiedrowski, Beverly Chartier, Richard McQuown, Bet-z Boenning, Michael Fisher, Miss Chanel Divine, Wendy Raser, Morgan Pankratz, Grace Felion, Nick Chartier, Matt Kemple, Mary Buchel, Barbara Moser, Leah Rolando, The LGBT Center, Footlights, Brumder Mansion, Tony and Andrea Bryant, Carroll University and Cecelia Mason Kuenn
CAST

Karen Wright .............................................................................................................. Kira Renkas
Martha Dobie ............................................................................................................ Samantha Paige
Dr. Joseph Cardin ....................................................................................................... Teddi Jules Gardner
Mrs. Lily Mortar ........................................................................................................ Brittany Boeche
Mrs. Amelia Tilford ................................................................................................. Mary Buchel
Agatha ....................................................................................................................... Maddie Wakley
Mary Tilford ................................................................................................................ Ashley Retzlaff
Rosalie Wells ............................................................................................................. Anna Lee Murray
Catherine ................................................................................................................. Ellie Boyce
Lois Fisher ................................................................................................................... KyLee Hennes
Evelyn Munn ............................................................................................................. Katrina Liberman
Peggy Rogers .............................................................................................................. Greta Dane
Helen Burton .............................................................................................................. Madie Gellings
Grocery Boy ............................................................................................................... Chance Wall

BIOGRAPHIES

Brittany Boeche (Mrs. Lily Mortar) is pleased to be performing with Outskirts at the lovely Brumder Mansion. A proud graduate of UW-Parkside, Brittany has performed with The Alchemist Theater, Bard and Bourbon, Milwaukee Youth Theater (guest artist), among others. She has also stage managed for The Alchemist, All In Productions, and Kohl’s Wild Theater. She currently manages the Education Department at First Stage. Many thanks to her family, Aric, and the lovely and supportive folks of Milwaukee theatre.

Ellie Boyce (Catherine) is at 13 year old incoming eighth grader at Lake Country School. Ellie’s favorite past credits include Sally Brown in A Charlie Brown Christmas at First Stage, Donkey in Shrek at Lake Country Playhouse and Mr. Greenway in Elf at Lake Country School. Ellie appreciates this opportunity!

Mary Buchel (Mrs. Amelia Tilford) acts in various local theaters. She appeared in two other Outskirts productions: Nat in Rabbit Hole and Melissa in Love Letters. She is honored to be part of the team bringing this classic, thought-provoking play to the stage.

Greta Dane (Peggy Rogers) is thrilled to be joining the amazing talent in this production. Greta is 14 years old and will be a freshman at Cedarburg High School this upcoming school year. She stepped on stage for the first time when she was cast as Annie at 7 years old. She was bitten by the theater bug during that show and has enjoyed working with many theaters in many different productions since then. Greta has performed with First Stage in A Charlie Brown’s Christmas, Rudolph the Musical and The Cat in the Hat. She has also performed with The North Shore Academy of the Arts,
Imagination Theater and many school productions. Greta dreams of moving to NYC and going to Juilliard so she has lots of hard work in her future.

**Teddi Jules Gardner** (Dr. Joseph Cardin) has been acting and directing in Milwaukee and Kenosha since 2010. Previous acting credits include Ares/Chorus (Oedipus Rex), Horatio (Hamlet), Hubert (King John), and Coriolanus (Coriolanus) with Voices Found Repertory Theatre where Teddi served as a member of the Board from 2017-2018. Previous directing credits include Twelfth Night (VFR) and Oedipus Rex (VFR); the latter receiving a nomination for Outstanding Professional Play in the 2018 Footlights Awards.

**Madie Gellings** (Helen Burton) is thrilled to be a part of The Children's Hour at Outskirts Theatre Co. Although this is her first show with Outskirts, she hopes to be a part of more in the future. She has done some work with both stage and film acting in the past, as well as sound and lighting design for theatre. She hopes you enjoy the show!

**KyLee Hennes** (Lois Fisher) is a junior at eAchieve and a quadruple threat. Recent credits include: Annie (Skylight), Violet (Skylight), The Sound of Music (Lyric Opera of Chicago) and Band on the Run (Sunset Playhouse). She appreciates the support of family, friends, Stewart Talent, cast and crew. EMC/AGMA

**Brandon Herr** (Stage Manager) graduated from UW-Parkside in 2011 with his Bachelor’s Degree in Theater Arts. Since graduation, Brandon has worked with American Players Theatre, Milwaukee Youth Theatre, the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, and the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. Brandon is currently the Director of Community Engagement for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. Love and puppy kisses to JD, Melissa, Rootie, and Bailey for keeping him sane.

**Katrina Liberman** (Evelyn Munn) is soon to be a sophomore in high school and has been doing theater since third grade. She is a Two-Star Honor Thespian at Homestead High School’s Drama Club, and incredibly honored and humbled to be working with Outskirts Theatre Co.’s production of The Children’s Hour. Alongside this production, Katrina has also appeared as Lloyd in Blue Stockings, Guard/Pied Piper in Shrek: The Musical, and Charlie Brown in You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown. Thanks to Elena Liberman and Vitali Liberman, her brother Michael Liberman, her high school theater director Amelia Figg-Franzoi, and her cousin Mark Puchinsky.

**Anna Lee Murray** (Rosalie Wells) is thrilled to be a part of The Children’s Hour! Recent roles include Fruition of a Delusion (Marie Curie) and Vows (Vanessa) with Cooperative Performance Milwaukee; and Phantasies Such As These with Sunset Playhouse. She’s also a proud board member of Cooperative Performance Milwaukee.
Outskirts Theatre Co.

**BIOGRAPHIES CONT.**

**Samantha Paige** (Martha Dobie/Hair Stylist) is thrilled to be playing such an iconic role in such a classic, timeless play in her first production with Outskirts. Favorite credits include Sally Bowles (*Cabaret*), Stella Kowalski (*A Streetcar Named Desire*), Mae (*Reefer Madness*), Hedy (*How To Succeed...*), Anita (*West Side Story*), and Wanda (*A Cudahy Caroler Christmas*). Also a classically trained dancer, Samantha's favorite choreography credits include *The Producers* (CBS), *Hairspray!* (GCT), *Dirty, Rotten Scoundrels* (Marquette University), and *Cabaret* (CBS).

Thank you to Shannon- your support has meant everything.

**Kira Renkas** (Karen Wright/Producer/ Costume Designer) graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Acting from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Kira feels fortunate to have acquired such a grand opportunity in this partnership with Outskirts Theatre Co. Primarily an actress, this is her first endeavor as a producer as well as costume designer. Having fallen in love with the story, she became determined to bring *The Children's Hour* to the stage. She is immensely grateful to OTC for taking her passion project on and giving her the faith she needs to breathe life into this story. She would also like to thank Dylan for granting her the opportunity to play such a challenging role. She would also like to thank Ben, Miracle, and Gus for being the perfect loves of her life. Enjoy the show!

**Ashley Retzlaff** (Mary Tilford) is honored to work with Outskirts Theatre Co. for the first time. She has recently worked with Cooperative Performance Milwaukee (*2018 One Act Festival* and *A Piece of My Heart*) Bard and Bourbon (*Henry V*) and The Bristol Renaissance Faire. Offstage she works as an American Literature and Theatre teacher at Oak Creek High School. First and foremost she would like to thank Dylan for granting her the opportunity to play such a challenging role. She would also like to thank Ben, Miracle, and Gus for being the perfect loves of her life. Enjoy the show!

**Robert Sharon** (Assistant Stage Manager/Set & Props Coordinator) Robert is thrilled to be working with Outskirts on this incredible project.

Robert works full time as the wardrobe supervisor at Milwaukee Repertory Theater and has worked as wardrobe supervisor for Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, and Florentine Opera Company. Other credits include: wardrobe supervisor/costume shop supervisor/costume designer at Fireside Dinner Theatre, and costume designer of *Twelfth Night* at Bard & Bourbon. Special thanks to Dylan, Brandon, William, and the Outskirts team.

**Dylan K. Sladky** (Director) is delighted to be helming this production, its talented cast, and immensely wonderful crew. When not directing, Dylan works for the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre and as a freelance dog-sitter. Favorite directing credits include *Twelfth Night*.
BIOGRAPHIES cont.

(Bard & Bourbon), Eurydice (Village Playhouse), This Property is Condemned and Angels in America: Perestroika (Cornish College of the Arts). Much love and many overdue thanks to friends, family, and every dog he has ever met.

Maddie Wakley (Agatha) is making her debut with Outskirts Theatre Co. She was most recently seen in Cooperative Performance’s One Acts Festival, and Twelfth Night with Bard & Bourbon. Other Milwaukee area credits include work with Theater RED, Forge Theater, Splinter Group, Luminous Theatre, and First Stage Children’s Theater. She received her BA in Theatre Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, and her diploma in Classical Performance from LAMDA. In August, she can be seen in Br!NK Br!efs, Renaissance Theaterworks’ 10-minute play festival.

Chance Wall (Grocery Boy) is very excited to be making his Outskirts Theatre Co. debut. Previous roles include The Milwaukee Rep’s A Christmas Carol (Young Scrooge), SummerStage’s The Secret Garden (Sir Colin Craven), Waukesha Civic Theatre’s House Without A Christmas Tree (Brian Kennedy), Gypsy (Young LA) & Annie Get Your Gun (Jake Oakley). He would like to thank his family, friends, and the cast & crew of The Children’s Hour for all their hard work and support.

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MEET OUR ARTISTIC ASSOCIATES

Ryan Albrechtson founded Outskirts Theatre in 2014. Since then, Ryan’s directed a majority of OTC productions, including *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*, *And Baby Makes Seven*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Wonderland*, *The Amish Project*, and *Bare: A Pop Opera*. Outside of running the company, Ryan’s focus in the organization is fundraising and event planning.

ryan@outskirtstheatre.org

Tim Albrechtson is new to the team, joining Outskirts Theatre recently as an Artistic Associate this season. Tim’s been on stage with OTC a few times, including Two of Spades in *Wonderland* and Matt in *Bare: A Pop Opera*. Tim’s role as an artistic associate focuses on communication with our patrons through our newsletter, new membership program, and other aspects.

tim@outskirtstheatre.org

Dyllan Brown has been with Outskirts Theatre since the inception. Dyllan’s played a variety of roles with the company including Beethoven in *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead* and the Cheshire Cat in *Wonderland*. Dyllan’s primary role as an Artistic Associate is running all of the social media pages and keeping the website current and up to date.

dyllan@outskirtstheatre.org

Maddi Conway is a new face to OTC Artistic Associate team, but not at all to the OTC stage. Maddi’s played a variety of roles with OTC, including CB’s Sister in *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead* and Alice in *Wonderland*. As an Artistic Associate, Maddi’s emphasis is on community outreach, including coordinating volunteer events, partnerships, and other community engagement endeavors.

maddi@outskirtstheatre.org

Allyson Imig joined the Outskirts Theatre team in 2016. Allyson has juggled a variety of positions including stage manager for *Love Letters*, box office, marketing, props design, and more! Allyson’s role as an Artistic Associate centers on marketing, public relations, and grant writing efforts.

allyson@outskirtstheatre.org

Frankie Steitz has starred in a number of roles with Outskirts Theatre, including Van’s Sister in *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*, Ruth in *And Baby Makes Seven*, Mimi in *RENT*, and most recently Nadia in *Bare: A Pop Opera*. As an Artistic Associate, Frankie’s focus is on artistic selection for our season, special events, and community outreach endeavors.

frankie@outskirtstheatre.org

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Special Congratulations to Kira Renkas. Your perseverance and hardwork paid off. We are very proud of you! Enjoy the moment.

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