Loyola University Chicago
Department of Fine and Performing Arts Presents

Failure: A Love Story
By Philip Dawkins

Feb 14 - Feb 24, 2019

Director
Mark E. Lococo

Scenic Designer
Timothy Mann

Costume Designer
Rachel Healy

Lighting Designer
Lee Keenan

Scenic Charger
Scott Gerwitz

Sound Designer
Gustavo Leone

Prop Master
Jamie Karas

Stage Manager
Lucy Whipp

Producer
April Browning

Newhart Family Theatre
1020 W Sheridan Road
Box Office: 773.508.8400 | boxoffice@luc.edu

FAILURE: A LOVE STORY is produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.
(www.playscripts.com)

Loyola University Chicago is an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Theatre and a proud member of the League of Chicago Theatres

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The Director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

DANCE | MUSIC | THEATRE | VISUAL ARTS

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

Loyola University Chicago
CAST

John N Fail................................................................. Grey Smith
Nelly Fail................................................................. Olivia Schierbeck-Jones
Gerty Fail................................................................. Lexi James
Jenny June Fail .......................................................... Juliana Liscio
Mortimer Mortimer ..................................................... Will Colley
Chorus .................................................................................. Andrew Flynn, Jayde Al-Angary,
                                                        Lizzie Williams, Karina Murrieta, Luca Calabro

SETTING

1920’s Chicago

DIRECTOR’S NOTE

“You know and I know. Just because something ends, that don’t mean it wasn’t a great success.”

This line from FAILURE: A LOVE STORY, points to one of Philip Dawkins’ many gifts as a playwright—the ability to articulate profound observations about life and death with an unexpected perspective that resonates with our own lives. The fact that the line is delivered by a dog points to other gifts—a whimsical, ironic and warm tone and a highly distinctive voice. We have grown to love this family, and have enjoyed every minute bringing to life “the Fail Clockworks Est. 1900: Open.” With incisive, perceptive characterizations and relationships set within the vivid world of Chicago in the 1920’s, join us and LUC alum Philip Dawkins for this wonderful story of love, loss and survival.

— Mark E. Lococo, PhD

DRAMATURGY NOTE

“The Era of Wonderful Nonsense,” also known as the 1920s, ushered in a time of new fashions and fads like bobbed hair and flagpole sitting (climbing to the top of a flagpole and resting there as long as possible, usually as a test of endurance). Coming at the tail end of a great wave of immigration through Ellis Island to the U.S., 1920s Chicago was a breeding ground for organized crime, calling to fame gangsters like Al Capone. Prohibition instigated more law breaking, as speakeasies became commonplace in the big cities of the United States. The Fail family lives in Chicago, right along the Chicago River, which had been the site of a horrible event that took the lives of 844 people: The Eastland Riverboat Disaster of 1915. Despite the incidents of crime and death, Chicago grew and grew in the early 1900s. The Fails are a family who came to the U.S. with nothing and built a phenomenal reputation with a “time-honored skill” that was practiced in their family for generations: clockworking. FAILURE: A LOVE STORY is a dark and witty work that covers a chunk of Chicago history while still tugging at heartstrings at the same time.

— Craig Wischmeyer
ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Philip Dawkins’ work includes the world premiere of MISS MARX: OR THE INVOLUNTARY SIDE EFFECT OF LIVING (Strawdog Theatre), which won the Joseph Jefferson Award for Best New Work, as well as recent critically-acclaimed plays THE HOMOSEXUALS and FAILURE: A LOVE STORY, which both also received Joseph Jefferson Nominations for New Work after their world premieres with About Face Theatre (2011) and Victory Gardens Theater (2012) respectively. His plays for young folks are published through Playscripts, Inc. A graduate of Loyola University Chicago, Mr. Dawkins is an Artistic Associate of About Face Theatre, an Ensemble Playwright at Victory Gardens, and a founding member of Chicago Opera Vanguard. Mr. Dawkins teaches playwriting at Northwestern University, his alma mater Loyola University Chicago, and through the Victory Gardens ACCESS Program for writers with disabilities. He also teaches Kung Fu to little Chicago kids through Rising Phoenix Kung Fu.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Jayde Al-Angary (Chorus) is a junior from Northwest Indiana studying theatre and Shakespeare. Coming back after an amazing semester in London, she is overjoyed to be making her mainstage debut in such a joyous and heartfelt show! She was last seen in the Underground in the ensemble of 1984 and as Marcy in SPELLING BEE. Many thanks to her teachers, family, pals, and John for the love and support.

Luca Calabro (Chorus) is a freshman theatre major and is thrilled to be in his third production here at Loyola. Luca previously played Mr. Hale in TRIFLES in Loyola's production of DOMESTIC: THREE WORKS BY WOMEN, earlier this year. Luca would like to dedicate his performance to his family, for always supporting his theatrical endeavors. He would also specifically like to thank his director, Mark Lococo, for this incredible opportunity.

Will Colley (Mortimer Mortimer) could not be more excited to be involved in this production of FAILURE: A LOVE STORY. Originally from Granby, Colorado, Will is a senior theatre major here at Loyola. Previously Will has been seen on stage at Loyola in ELEPHANT’S GRAVEYARD, CABARET, and VIOLET and was the sound designer for SPEECH & DEBATE. Will would like to thank his friends, Lucy, Mark, his family, the rest of the cast and production team, and Nathan Lane.

Andrew Flynn (Chorus) could not be more excited to be a part of this ensemble. Andrew is a theatre major with minors in musical theatre and chemistry from Cleveland, Ohio. Previously at Loyola Andrew was seen in SHE LOVES ME (Ensemble), SHE KILLS MONSTERS (Miles), THE 25th...SPELLING BEE (Leaf Coneybear), MACHINAL (Ensemble), 1984 (Syme), EXIT, PURSUED BY A BEAR (Simon) and assistant directed DOUBT. Last semester Andrew also made his directorial debut with SPEECH & DEBATE. Andrew would like to thank Mark, the cast, Lucy, the Ladies, his family, and his friends for all the support.

Lexi James (Gerty Fail) is a transplant Chicago citizen from Boulder, Colorado. She is a sophomore theatre major and business minor. Lexi has been seen previously as Van’s Sister in DOG SEES GOD, in the CABARET ensemble, and as Nan in DOMESTIC: THREE WORKS BY WOMEN. She would like to recognize her theatre family and faculty for being so lovely and supportive, and thank her biological family for giving her the opportunity and providing the encouragement to pursue what she loves.

Juliana Liscio (Jenny June Fail) is a senior theatre major/French language minor from Skokie, Illinois. Previous Loyola credits include ELEPHANT’S GRAVEYARD
CAST BIOGRAPHIES cont.

and ROMEO AND JULIET. Juliana is a 2018 graduate of the Fordham London Dramatic Academy. She is represented by Shirley Hamilton Inc.

Karina Murrieta (Chorus) is so excited to be a part of this production! As a senior, her past credits at Loyola include, VIOLET, MACHINAL, MR BURNS: A POST ELECTRIC PLAY, and THIS IS MY BODY. Some of her other favorite credits include, RENT, SPRING AWAKENING, and EVITA. In her free time, she loves to play piano and read. She would love to thank her friends and family for their never ending support and light.

Olivia Schierbeck-Jones (Nelly Fail) is a sophomore theatre major at Loyola! She is so excited to be a part of this production. She has previously been seen in the ensemble of VIOLET, and Tricia in DOG SEES GOD at Loyola. She wants to thank her friends and her family for their endless support and love. Enjoy!

COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

Mark E. Lococo, Ph.D. (Director) is the Director of Theatre and a Professor of Fine and Performing Arts at Loyola, where he has directed MR. BURNS: A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY, ELEPHANT’S GRAVEYARD, TINTYPES, GALILEO, SPRING AWAKENING, LOST IN YONKERS, and URINETOWN, among many others. Recently, he directed DAPHNE’S SUNSET for the Chicago Musical Theatre Festival. In recent years, he’s directed VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE, EDUCATING RITA and OTHER DESERT CITIES at Citadel Theatre, THE GIFTS OF THE MAGI and ONCE ON THIS ISLAND at Porchlight Theatre, A CHORUS LINE at the Marriott Lincolnshire Theatre, and WINGS at the Apple Tree Theatre. He has also directed at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Skylight Opera Theatre, Pittsburgh Civic Theatre among many others. He has been nominated for Chicago’s Joseph Jefferson Award for Directing four times, in each directing category (Play, Musical, Review). Lococo received his PhD in Performance Studies from Northwestern University, and is a member of the Society of Directors and Choreographers. He has held various offices for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education and in 2012 chaired their annual conference in Washington, DC. In June 2013 he completed the SITI Company Theatre Intensive, and returned to the company in the summer of 2018 for training and rehearsal culminating in a performance of “Theatre Piece No. 1,” a reinterpretation of the original “happening” by John Cage at Black Mountain College. He will direct SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY: A WWII LOVE STORY at Citadel Theatre in May.

Timothy Mann (Scenic Director) is a senior instructor of scenic design at Loyola University Chicago. His designs at Loyola include VIOLET, MR. BURNS, LEND ME A TENOR, SHE LOVES ME, SPRING AWAKENING, THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA, HOT MIKADO, LOST IN YONKERS, MISALLIANCE, OUR COUNTRY’S GOOD, JOE TURNER’S COME & GONE, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM, THE VISIT, MNEMONIC, ARCADIA, HEDDA

Grey Smith (John N. Fail) is a freshman who is very excited about being a part of this production. He was previously seen in the ensemble of VIOLET last semester. He’d love to thank a bunch of people. Unfortunately, that would be more than 60 words so they know who they are.

Lizzie Williams (Chorus) is a senior theatre major with music and musical theatre minors. Originally from Cheshire, England, Lizzie moved to the Chicago suburbs in July 2012. Previously at Loyola, Lizzie has appeared in ROMEO AND JULIET (Balthasar), CABARET (Rosie), and DOMESTIC: THREE WORKS BY WOMEN (Sweetheart in EXIT, PURSUED BY A BEAR) and worked as props master on SPEECH & DEBATE. She would like to thank friends and family for their amazing support and to send lots of love to Mum, Dad, and Alex!
COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

Gabler, AH, Wilderness!, Cinderella, Guys & Dolls, The Pirates of Penzance. Scenery and Costumes for From the Mississippi Delta, Proof, Trojan Women. Professional designs: Pantomime, Continental Divide, and JITNEY (Pegasus Players); 4-PLAY (13-Carat Production); THIRD (Apple Tree Theatre); Black Nativity (Congo Square Theatre); Master Harold and the Boys, The Pitmen Painters (TimeLine Theatre) WHAT THE BIRDFEEDER DOESN’T KNOW (Raven Theatre.) Television design includes Assistant Art Direction for the Rosie O’Donnell Show, and The Late, Late Show with Craig Kilbourne, as well as several feature films. He worked as the Art Director for The Late Show with David Letterman from 1996-2004. His design work in Chicago has earned nominations for a Black Arts Alliance Award as well as Non-Equity and Equity Jeff Awards.

Rachel Healy (Costume Designer) is a professor of costume design at Loyola University Chicago. She teaches Theatre Design, Stage makeup and Intro to Theatre courses. Based in Chicago, her costume designs have been seen on numerous stages including The Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Writers Theatre, Chicago Children’s Theatre, The Court Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre, American Theatre Co, The Next Theatre, TimeLine Theatre, and Remy Bumppo Theatre. Regionally, she has designed with the Alliance Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, First Stage Children’s Theatre of Milwaukee, American Players Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, Delaware Theatre Company, and Arizona Theatre Company. More of her designs can be found at www.rahealy.com.

Lee Keenan (Lighting Designer) is a Senior Lecturer of Lighting Design. Lee has designed lights for The House Theatre of Chicago (company member), Lookingglass Theatre, Court Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Victory Gardens Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory, Centerstage Baltimore, Adrienne Arsht Center Miami, Kansas City Rep, Albany Park Theatre Project, 500 Clown, Next Theatre, Silk Road Rising (Artistic Associate), Steppenwolf Theatre SYA & Garage Rep, the Griffin Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre: Short Shakes, Bailiwick Chicago, Buzz22, Theatre Seven, Eclipse Theatre Company, Walkabout Theater Company, About Face Youth Theatre, Apple Tree Theatre, Circle Theatre, Bailiwick, Infamous Commonwealth, Illinois Humanities Council, Chicago Festival of the Arts, Northwestern University, The Building Stage, and Santa Barbara Dance Alliance.

Scott Gerwitz (Scenic Charge) spent 10 years as the charge artist at Steppenwolf Theatre. Currently, he is the charge at the Court Theatre, Victory Gardens Theatre, and Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival. His longest job is teaching and working with the young artists at Loyola University Chicago. He also paints murals for restaurants around the country with his company Morpheus Murals. Scott received his MFA from Brandeis University and is a member of United Scenic Artists #829. www.morpheusmurals.com

Gustavo Leone (Sound Designer) is a Composer and a Professor in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts of Loyola University Chicago. His principal composition teachers included Gerardo Gandini, Marta Lambertini, Ralph Shapey, Shulamit Ran, and John Eaton. He also studied electronic music with Howard Sandroff. Leone is a recipient of a Walter Hinrichsen Award given by the American Academy of Art and Letters. His music is included in the catalogs of C.F. Peters, New York, Toccata Classics, and Naxos Recordings. Ensembles such as Cuarteto Q-Arte, Grant Park Festival Orchestra, the Symphonic Orchestra of Michoacán, the Chicago Sinfonietta and the Czech National Symphony Orchestra, amongst others, have played and commissioned Leone’s works. His work for the theater includes productions at the Yale Repertory Theatre, the Goodman Theater, Victory Gardens Theater, and Teatro Vista.
Jamie Karas (Prop Master) is the Prop Shop Supervisor at Loyola University Chicago and is excited for this show! She is a local to Chicago and has propped for theatres all around, including; McLeod Summer Playhouse, Next Theatre, Buzz22, Ashlawn Opera, About Face Theatre, Griffin Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre, Steppenwolf, House Theatre of Chicago, Rivendell Theatre, Strawdog Theatre, Haven Theatre, Idle Muse, Peninsula Players, Side Project Theatre, Steep Theatre, Teatro Vista, Windy City Playhouse, American Blues Theater, Music Theater Works, Wilmette Center for the Arts, Oak Park Festival Theatre, and Remy Bumppo Theatre.

Lucy Whipp (Stage Manager) is a senior theatre major, women and gender studies minor originally from East Lansing, Michigan. At Loyola, she has stage managed VIOLET, MACHINAL, and THE BALTIMORE WALTZ, assistant stage managed TINTYPES and ELEPHANT’S GRAVEYARD, lighting designed 1984, and lighting/projection designed SPEECH & DEBATE. Later this semester, she will be production managing MY MAÑANA COMES and assistant lighting designing MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING. She would like to thank the Ladies, her best friends, her family, Mark, Katie, and the fantastic cast and crew of FAILURE for all of the support through her last semester at Loyola.

Craig Wischmeyer (Assistant Director/ Dramaturg/Choreographer) is a senior Theatre major on the pre-physical therapy track with minors in musical theatre and psychology. Previously at Loyola, he assistant directed VIOLET, and you may have seen him onstage in SPEECH & DEBATE, CABARET, ELEPHANT’S GRAVEYARD, SHE LOVES ME, and PROJECT: FEAR. Starting in the Fall, he will be attending Northwestern University to get his Doctorate in Physical Therapy. He would like to thank Mark for the amazing opportunity, the talented cast, his friends and family, and his immune system for believing in him and getting him where he is today.

Gianni Carcagno (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore theatre and sociology major with a women's studies minor from St Louis, Missouri. Previously at Loyola, Gianni was assistant stage manager for VIOLET, A1 for CABARET, and worked on the devised piece THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING GENDERED. Later this semester, she is sound designing MY MAÑANA COMES. Gianni gives all her thanks to the FAILURE team and her family for their unending support.

Emily Czajkowski (Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior theatre major from the suburbs of Chicago. She has just returned from a semester abroad at the London Dramatic Academy, studying acting in their conservatory program. While she learned a lot there, she is prepared to switch gears for this production and for later in the semester scenic designing MY MAÑANA COMES. Emily would like to thank the cast and crew of FAILURE for this amazing experience, as well as her family and friends for supporting her in all that she does.

Justin Snyder (Technical Director) has been professionally involved in the theatre industry in Phoenix, Los Angeles, and now as a Technical Director in Chicago for the past several years. He has worked with over 24 theatres on 70+ shows as a freelance technical director and as the Assistant Technical Director for Court Theatre and Technical Director for Victory Gardens Theater. In 2015, he earned the Emerging Technical Collaborator award at the Michael Merritt Awards. Building is a passion of his and theater is the medium that brings creativity, hard work and collaboration together to make something truly imaginative and worth working on.

Austin Pettinger (Costume Shop Supervisor) received his training at the University of Evansville as well as through master classes in millinery, tailoring, leather tooling, and armor making. Companies he has worked with include: The Goodman Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Timeline Theatre, Haymarket Opera, Elements Contemporary Ballet, Papermill Playhouse, Victory Gardens, On Your Feet Inc. and Norwegian Cruise Lines.
COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES cont.

Clare Roche (Lighting and Sound Supervisor) has been with the department since 2010. Clare instructs the theatre electrics Practicum as well as acting as Lighting and Sound Supervisor for all Theatre, Dance and Music performances. She graduated from Loyola University Chicago with degrees in theatre and English. During the summer months, Clare travels across the country as Production Stage Manager and Tent Boss for New Belgium Brewery’s Tour de Fat. Through this tour Ms. Roche has had the opportunity to work with a variety of music bands and circus performers, including but not limited to The Roots, The Naked and Famous, Dr. Dog, Mucca Pazza, Daredevil Chicken, Lee Zimmerman, John Hidby, Sister Sparrow and the Dirty Birds, Skylar Grey and Fire Leopard. Ms. Roche has toured all over the country as a production stage manager and lighting designer with The Handsome Little Devils, 500 Clown, Lakeside Shakespeare Company, Lucky Plush Productions, Griffin Theatre and Cards Against Humanity. Clare has also worked in the city of Chicago as a Lighting Supervisor and Stage Manager at Lifeline Theatre, The Neo-Futurists, The House Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare, Victory Gardens, The Hypocrites, Adventure Stage, Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre, Strawdog and Griffin Theatre among others.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Puppet Artisans.........................Rachel Healy, Austin Pettinger, Justin Snyder, Timothy Mann
Asst. Director/Dramaturg/Choreographer.................................................................Craig Wischmeyer
Asst. Stage Managers..........................................................Gianni Carcagno, Emily Czajowski
Asst. Scenic Designer ..........................................................Molly Cornell
Asst. Costume Designer ..........................................................Erika Meckauskas
Asst. Sound Designer ..........................................................Andrew Littleton
Light Board Operator ..........................................................Parker Bailey
Sound Board Operator ..........................................................Elise Mitchell
Wardrobe Supervisor ..........................................................Maegan Pate
Wardrobe Crew ......................................................................Wency Hernandez Rubio
Spot Operators / Fly Crew ..........................................................Georgia Dib, Sophia Duque
Deck Crew ................................................................................Faith Hood

THEATRE FACULTY

Sarah Gabel, PhD
Chairperson
April Browning
Ann Joseph Douglas
Richard Gilbert
Rachel Healy
Kelly Howe
Timothy Kane
Lee Keenan
Katie Klemme
Ross Lehman
Mark E. Lococo
Timothy Mann
Devon de Mayo
Olivia Rigdon
Clare Roche
Austin Pettinger
Justin Snyder
Jessica Thigpen
Jonathan Wilson

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DEPARTMENT OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE STAFF

Director of Theatre ................................................................. Mark E. Lococo
Managing Director ................................................................. April Browning
Production Management Coordinator ................................ Ada Göktepe
Management Assistants ...................................................... Elyah Lemke, Amelia Ablan, Ed Fogarty
Stage Management Mentor .................................................. Katie Klemme
Technical Director ............................................................... Justin Klemme
Scenic Charge .................................................................... Scott Gerwitz
Costume Shop Supervisor ..................................................... Austin Pettinger
Costume Crafts Person ........................................................ Olivia Rigdon
Costume Construction ......................................................... Jayde Al-Angary, Julia Clare Barr, Miranda Betancourt, Kalliope Bessler, Emma Boles, Luca Calabro, Nicholas Clatch, Anna Victoria Cornew, John Carlin Decker, Sarah Gokelman, Eric Guy, Sammi Harvey, Alexandra James, Laurel Linnea Karis, Liam Melville, Maegan Pate, Alejandro Shydlowksi, Veda Sol Teich, Katherine Jane Torma, Mia Triantafillou, Kendall Elizabeth Wack, Brian Warner
Lighting and Sound Supervisor ............................................. Clare Roche
Electrics Crew ................................................................. Parker Bailey, Taylor Beck, Kennedy Bohm, Emily Carroccio, Molly Cornell, Emily Czajowski, Ada Goktepe, Sammi Harvey, Allison Haussler, Faith Lewis, Andrew Littleton, Alessandra Miglietti Villasana, Kristina Newcomb, James O’Hara, Lauren Peters, Allison Sparrow, Garvin van Dernoot, Margaret Walker, Claire Zupec
Properties Shop Supervisor .................................................. Jamie Karas
Properties Artisans ............................................................... Russell Snook-Whitfield, Isabella Van Houzen
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