**GOSZ & FOTOS**

presents:

**TRU**

Book, Music, and Lyrics by David Gosz & Leo Fotos

Directed by Taylor Pasche

Music Directed by Eric Rehm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stage Manager</td>
<td>Corbin Paulino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Director</td>
<td>Nick Peebles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic Designer</td>
<td>Woongjin Oh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costume Designer</td>
<td>Amanda Rabito</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting Designer</td>
<td>Ben Fallon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Properties Designer / Assistant Scenic Designer</td>
<td>Jessie Baldinger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intimacy Choreographer / Violence Choreographer</td>
<td>Gaby Labotka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choreographer</td>
<td>Hazel Clarke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
<td>Diane Meo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Stage Manager</td>
<td>Aszkara Gilchrist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orchestrator</td>
<td>Leo Fotos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Contractor</td>
<td>George Dravilis Greenline Construction Co.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONTENT WARNING:**

TRU - A Musical for Mental Health contains sensitive content such as storylines involving mental illness and suicide, as well as simulated violence that may be difficult for some audience members to address or view. If you feel the need to leave the theater for any reason, you may do so at any time.

Show Dates: November 1st - 24th
CAST

Truman Hayes .......................................................... Stephen “Blu” Allen
Her ............................................................................. Meredith Kochan
Isla Claire................................................................. Shannon McEldowney
Gail Baker ..................................................................... marssie Mencotti
Mark Hayes .................................................................... Marc Prince
Burton ........................................................................... Elyssa Treviño
Guitarist ........................................................................ Ian Maryfield
Cellist ............................................................................. Taylor Dalton
Ensemble ........................................................................ Lydia Burke
Ensemble ......................................................................... Desiree Gonzalez
Ensemble ........................................................................ Jennifer Harlee Mitchell
Ensemble .......................................................................... Jack William Rodgers

BAND

Matt Salvo ................................................................. Keyboard I
Eric Rehm ........................................................................ Keyboard II
Julia Canter Wellisch .................................................... Violin
Taylor Dalton ............................................................. Cello
Robert Lark ...................................................................... Trumpet
Jules Cunningham ......................................................... Guitar
Tony Fitten ....................................................................... Drums

SPECIAL THANKS

Rocky Russo, NAMI Metro Suburban, Riveredge Hospital, NAMI Illinois, Jim Yost, The Clare, Mary Jane Maharry and Brava Arts Marketing, Matthew Sitz, George Dravilis, Alicia Senior-Saywell and Footlights, Lizzy Lieberman, Jack Short, and Stage 773, Stephanie Dykes and City Lit Theatre, April Welch, Kimberly Knake, Carey Carlock, Cheryl Potts, Kellyn Maguire, David O’Connor, and Michael Keefe
Stephen “Blu” Allen
Blu (Truman Hayes) is a Chicago Based Actor/Singer. Notable credits include In The Heights (Porchlight Music Theatre); Jesus Christ Superstar (Paramount Theatre); Shrek (Marriott Theatre); and most recently he was seen in the world premiere of The Watson’s Go To Birmingham (Chicago Children’s Theatre). He is very honored to be telling the story of Truman Hayes and hopes that this will be another step in normalizing the conversation on mental health.

INSTAGRAM: HeyBluBoy

Meredith Kochan
Meredith (Her) makes her Stage 773 debut. Most recently, Meredith understudied and performed as one of the Weird Sisters in Macbeth (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre). Other Chicago credits include: TRU (The 2018 Chicago Musical Theatre Festival, Nominated Best Supporting Performer); Fly By Night (Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre); The Fantasticks, Fiddler on the Roof (Music Theatre Works). Film credits include The Devil’s Toy Box and 7 Nights of Darkness. Meredith has a BFA from Kent State University, and is represented by Big Mouth Talent and Management by Morgan.

Shannon McEldowney
Shannon (Isla Claire) is honored to be telling this story. She was last seen as Isla Claire in TRU at the 2018 Chicago Musical Theatre Festival, where she was nominated for Best Lead Performer. Some of her favorite credits include MAMMA MIA! (Drury Lane Oakbrook); YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN (Inga, Little Theatre on the Square), DISASTER (Marianne, Chicago Theatre Workshop); and THE PAJAMA GAME (Theatre at the Center). Shannon is a proud mental health advocate and thanks you for supporting TRU #breakthestigma. Love to MDF.

marssie Mencotti
marssie (Gail Baker) is truly delighted (and I really mean it) to be cast in TRU. She received two non-Equity Jeff nominations in 2019 for lead actor in THE SAFE HOUSE (City Lit Theatre); and supporting actor in HERLAND (Red Twist Theatre). Prior to that she appeared in J.B. (City Lit); THE CHEEK (Magpie Theatre); and other fine Chicago productions at Raven, Stage Left, and others. In April, she will be appearing in WELCOME TO KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE (Strawdog). She was a tenured Assoc. Professor at Columbia College Chicago where she currently teaches part-time. She’s represented by NV Talent for voiceover and represented on camera by Big Mouth Talent and on stage by Big Mouth’s Kyle Mundil.

Marc Prince
Marc (Mark Hayes) is ecstatic to join Gosz & Fotos on this incredible journey! His most recent credits include Afterglow (Pride Films & Plays); and The Full Monty (Theo Ubique Cabaret Theater). He has also appeared in Poseidon: An Upside Down Musical (Hell in a Handbag Prod.); Waiting for Waldo (Saint Sebastian Players); Yank! A WWII Love Story (Pride Films & Plays); Once on this Island (That Was A Show Theater Group); and Zombie Bathhouse: A Rock Musical (Campsong Productions). Studies and training include Black Box Acting.
CAST BIOGRAPHIES cont.

Elyssa Treviño

Elyssa (Burton) is ecstatic to be a part of TRU! Born and raised in Texas she moved to Chicago in 2016 to pursue her acting career. Along the way she has worked with Visión Latino Theatre Company, The Right Brain Project, Red Theatre, and Off-Key Anthem Theatre Collective. She is also the Marketing Director and an ensemble member for Off-Key Anthem Theatre Collective. She would like to thank Taylor, David, and Leo for this amazing opportunity and beautiful show. She would also like to thank her family for their constant love and support, and last but not least she would like to thank TP and CP for being her second family and for always pushing her when she thought she had nowhere else to go, she loves you both!

Ian Maryfield

Ian (Guitarist) is ecstatic to be making his musical debut at Stage 773 with this wonderful cast and crew. Chicago credits include productions with Court Theatre, Red Tape Theatre, Haven Theatre, The House Theatre of Chicago, 16th St. Theatre, Erasing the Distance, Factory Theater, Pulse Theatre and Runcible Theatre Company. Television credits include Chicago Fire; Commercial credits include Legendary Whitetails, Guinness and State Farm. Ian received his BFA in acting from Oklahoma City University. He would like to thank his mother and brother, Taylor and Corbin, David and Leo, and the folks at Stewart Talent for all they do. To God be the glory.

Taylor Dalton

Taylor (Cellist) is honored to be in TRU alongside these incredible performers! Chicago credits include Southern Comfort (Pride Films & Plays); Crazed Girls (City Lit); The Aristophanesathon (The Hypocrites); and here comes... / there goes... (Hairpin Arts). Past performances with Davenport’s, Zhou B Art Center, Chicago Theatre Workshop, Windy City Performing Arts, Broken Nose Collective, and The New 400 Theater. Many thanks to the women who taught her everything she knows.

Lydia Burke

Lydia (Ensemble) is elated to work on such a wonderful production as TRU! Lydia’s most recent Chicago credits include May/Chenille in Junie B. Jones the Musical (Mariott Theatre); Matilda (Drury Lane Theatre); The Hunchback of Notre Dame (Music Theater Works); Ghost: The Musical (Theatre at the Center); In the Blood (PULSE Theatre); the Dragon in Shrek: The Musical, and Lucy in A Charlie Brown Christmas (Windy City Perfroms). She is a proud graduate of the Millikin University School of Theatre and Dance (Go, Big Blue!). She’d like to send much love and thanks to her friends and family for their constant, unwavering support!

Desiree Gonzalez

Desiree (Ensemble, U/S Her) is so grateful to be apart of this team! Latest Chicago credits include: Mary Shelly's Frankenstei (Lookingglass); The Abuelas (Teatro Vista); New Faces Sing 1975 (Porchlight); Do Re Mi (Porchlight); Bonnie
and Clyde of which Desiree was nominated for a Jeff Award (Kokandy Productions); Destiny of Desire and Another Word for Beauty (Goodman Theatre). TV credits include Chicago Fire and several regional commercials. Desiree is a graduate of Carthage College and is proudly represented by Big Mouth Talent and Management by Morgan.

Jennifer Harlee Mitchell
Jennifer (Ensemble) is thrilled to make her Chicago debut with TRU! She is a recent graduate of The Chicago College of Performing Arts (Roosevelt University) with a degree in Musical Theatre. Some of her favorite roles include Miss Molly in Backbeat Quartet (Cedar Point Live Entertainment), Phyllis in Shinbone Alley (Third Avenue Playhouse); Flower Girl in Pygmalion (Oak Park Festival Theatre); Marmee in Little Women the Musical (Chicago College of Performing Arts); Blair in Sunday in the Park with George (Chicago College of Performing Arts), and Isabel in Pirates of Penzance (CCPA). Currently resides in Chicago, IL; she was born in a small town, Elkhorn WI. Much love to all my family and friends who continue to support my endeavors! www.jenniferharleemitchell.com

Jack William Rodgers
Jack (Ensemble) is a Houston native and recent Chicago transplant. He graduated from Texas State University with his BFA in Production and Performance. Credits include: Warren in Ordinary Days, Mr. Marmalade in Mr. Marmalade, Claudio in Much Ado About Nothing, Jesus in Godspell, and Zack in Belleville. He would like to thank his family, Kelsey, and Doug Shay. To see more of his work, you can check out his Twitter, @JackWilliamRtF.

Metro Suburban
Supporting individuals, families and communities affected by mental illness throughout the western suburbs of Cook County.

www.namimetsub.org
(708) 524-2582, info@namimetsub.org
Find Help • Find Hope
PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Taylor Pasche (Director) has her BFA in Directing from Texas State University. She has recently worked with Right Brain Project, Otherworld Theatre, and Red Theatre. She is the Artistic Director of Off-Key Anthem with whom she has produced and directed several new works, most regarding Mental Health. She is thrilled to bring TRU to life, and start conversations that need to be had about what it means to have mental illness. Thanks to Leo and David for this opportunity, and many many thanks to the unwavering support of her friends and partner.

Eric Rehm (Music Director) is a Chicago-land suburban native, having grown up in the south suburban town of Frankfort. Rehm attended Illinois State University, and graduated in December of 2015 with degrees in Music Education and Vocal Performance. Throughout college and since graduating, Rehm has music directed over 25 musicals through various suburban theaters. After 3 years of teaching middle school choir and general music, Rehm is now focusing on freelance work as a music director, private voice teacher and arranger.

Corbin Paulino (Stage Manager) is a former Texan who has found his way to Chicago a few years ago. Since then he has stage managed for Haven Theatre, Barrel of Monkeys, and A-Squared Theatre and is the Managing Director for a new theatre collective called Off-Key Anthem. His past credits include Kiss, The Total Bent, Director’s Haven 2018, Displaced, Fear and Misery of the Third Reich, Director’s Haven 2017, Kid’s Write It, We’re Gonna Die, American Hwangap, and How We Got On. He is very excited to be a part of Team TRU, but is also so honored to work along side future legendary director and partner Taylor Pasche. Thank you, whomever you are, for reading this and supporting our show!

Nick Peebles (Technical Director) is excited to be working with Gosz & Fotos on this production! His prior credits include The Roommate and Sentimental Journey (Citadel Theatre); Shadow Box (Oakton Community College Performing Arts Center); Beehive: A 60s Musical (Timber Lake Playhouse); and Songs for a New World, The Odd Couple, and Meet Me in St. Louis (Thunder Bay Theater).

Woongjin Oh (Scenic Designer) is a Chicago and New York City based freelance scenic designer. He is originally from Korea, and he has studied various forms of fine art and design, including painting, sculpture, scenic design, and graphic design. He believes that his varied experiences and the wide range of attempts he has made have had a great impact on his art work. While gaining through various forms of design experience in both the theater and art industries, he has sought to broaden his perspective as an artist. This prompted his relocation to the US. He received his Scenic design M.F.A. from Northwestern University. Woongjin has designed: Twelfth Night, or What You Will (Barber Theatre); and A Starry Night & Gala Show (Northwestern Univ); Spring Awakening (Wallis Theatre); Cherry Orchard (Louis Theatre); Voyeur de Venus (Louis Theatre); and TRU (Gosz & Fotos at Stage 773).

Amanda Rabito (Costumes Designer) is thrilled to be a part of Team TRU! Amanda is a Chicago-based costume designer and artist. Recent design credits include The Beautiful People (Edge of the Wood Theatre); Director’s Haven 2018 (Haven Theatre); and Ever in the Glades (Northwestern University). Amanda received her MFA in costume design from Northwestern University (2018), and has a BA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (2015). In addition to design, Amanda teaches sewing courses at Lillstreet Art Center in Chicago.

Ben Fallon (Lighting Designer) is happy to be back lighting TRU for a second time, after last year’s appearance at the Chicago Musical Theatre Festival. Other credits
include Rent (High School Rep Company of Western Springs); Little Shop of Horrors (Theatre of Western Springs); as well as numerous events in and out of theatre for high schools and colleges. In the past, he has partaken in shows around the area, including leading the electrics department as Master Electrician at Theatre at the Center.

Jessie Baldinger (Properties Designer / Assistant Scenic Designer) is a recent graduate of Northwestern University, and is thrilled to be working on TRU. At Northwestern, Jessie designed scenery for eleven student productions, including three for The Dolphin Show, America’s largest student produced musical, directed one student production, and was on the executive board of Spectrum Theatre Company. Jessie has assisted Andrew Boyce, Scott Davis, and Arnel Sancianco. Her most recent design is The Women of 4G (Factory Theater).

Gaby Labotka (Intimacy Choreographer / Violence Choreographer) is a Certified Intimacy Director with Intimacy Directors International, an Advanced Actor Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors, and a proud member of ALTA. Selected choreography credits: Oslo (Fight & Intimacy Director, TimeLine); Kiss (Intimacy Director, Haven Chicago); Desire in a Tinier House (Intimacy & Fight Director); and A Story Told in Seven Fights (Fight Director, The Neo-Futurists, ALTA Award: Outstanding Fight Choreography). Her work can currently be seen in A Doll’s House (Intimacy, Fight, and Movement Director, Writers’ Theatre); and Oliver! (Fight & Intimacy Director, Marriott Theatre). For more check out www.gabylabotka.com

Hazel Clarke (Choreographer) Regional theater: Peter Pan, A Chorus Line (LA Times Critic’s Choice Winner); Shiela Callahaghan’s Elevada, Lizzie The Musical (Stage Scene LA Outstanding Choreography). National Tours: Musical Thrones: A Parody of Ice and Fire. Founder of Kairos Dance Company (est. 2006) contemporary choreography credits include: Palm Desert Dance Under the Stars Choreography Festival (finalist), Rocky Mountain Choreography Festival (winner), sjDANCEco ChoreoFest (winner). Highlights: Three full-length performances at Tim Robbin’s Actors’ Gang in LA: ‘Light in the Moonless Midnight’, (erasing the mental illness stigma) ‘Paradigm’, (societal effects of social media) and ‘She Speaks’, (empowering women). www.hazelclarkedance.com

Diane Meo (Assistant Director) is a Chicago based theatre director and voice actor. You can hear her voices in video games such as To the Top, Mr. President, and Small Talk, as well as the podcast TENDRIL: The Banshee Chronicles. Her most recent directing projects include: Brooklyn No-Names by Melanie Notinger and Marissa Jones (SheNYC Summer Theatre Festival; winner for Best Script and Best Direction); and Affiliated by Jane Goldenberg with the Women’s Theatre Alliance of Chicago’s New Play Development Workshop Showcase. She holds a BFA in Theatre: Performance and Production from Texas State University. To see more of her work please visit: Dianemeo.com

Aszkara Gilchrist (Assistant Stage Manager) is a recent graduate of Palm Beach Atlantic University, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Arts. She is honored and excited to be a part of Team TRU as the Assistant Stage Manager. In addition to her stage management work, she is a legally blind actor and has performed in several productions, including Twelfth Night (Sir Andrew), The Mystery of Edwin Drood (Deputy/Nicole Cricker) and the world premiere of The Luck of Roaring Camp (Cherokee Sal). Aszkara would like to congratulate the cast and crew of TRU on all of their hard work in bringing this incredible and impactful production to life.
ABOUT GOSZ & FOTOS

Gosz & Fotos is a Chicago-based production company specializing in creating and realizing musical theatre. Their original musical, TRU, was a semi-finalist for the 2017 New York Musical Festival, and premiered with a sold-out run at the 2018 Chicago Musical Theatre Festival where it took home 14 nominations and 2 wins for “Best Choreography” and “Best Music.” In 2017, the duo began working on their second major project, San - A Musical by Design. It is the mission of Gosz & Fotos to create impactful, inspirational, and inclusive stories for all audiences.

Learn more about Gosz & Fotos by visiting www.goszandfotos.com
www.facebook.com/GoszandFotos
www.facebook.com/TRUmusical
Instagram: @goszandfotos

David Gosz (Executive Producer; Book / Music / Lyrics) is a graduate of The University of Chicago with a degree in Economics. He is employed as a strategic enrollment management consultant and works with colleges and universities. With Leo Fotos, he began working on TRU in August 2013. TRU is his first major theatrical work, having received awards at the 2018 Chicago Musical Theatre Festival for “Best Music” and “Best Choreography.” David would like to thank his family for supporting him throughout this process!

Leo Fotos (Executive Producer; Book / Music / Lyrics / Orchestrator) began working on TRU in August 2013. TRU is his first major theatrical work, having received awards at the 2018 Chicago Musical Theatre Festival for “Best Music” and “Best Choreography.” Leo, with David Gosz, is also the composer and writer of San - A Musical by Design. He is thankful for the support and love from his family and Emily.