The Theory of Relativity

February 14 – February 23, 2020

Directed by Debra Krajec
Music Direction by Niffer Clarke
Scenic Design by Stephen Hudson-Mairet
Costume Design by Grace Weir ’21
Lighting Design by Chester Loeffler-Bell

Originally produced by Goodspeed Musicals, East Haddam, CT
The Musical was presented at the National Alliance for Musical Theatre’s Festival of New Musicals in 2015

The Theory of Relativity was developed at the Canadian Music Theatre Project, Sheridan College in Oakville, Ontario, Canada.

The Theory of Relativity is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.MTIShows.com

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.
Marquette University is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST).
CAST

Jenny ................................................................................................................................. Liz De Vere Hunt
Caroline .......................................................................................................................... Tino Dentino
Amy ................................................................................................................................. Katie Dickey
Catherine ......................................................................................................................... Johannah Lee
Julie ....................................................................................................................................... Miranda Hunt
Sara ..................................................................................................................................... Vivian Romano
Mira ...................................................................................................................................... Agnes Connolly
Paul ...................................................................................................................................... Kaden Moss
Ryan ................................................................................................................................... Will Knox
Anthony ............................................................................................................................ Ben Lash
Oliver .................................................................................................................................. Eric Rorholm
Adam ................................................................................................................................. Caleb Kwasigroch
Mike .................................................................................................................................... Carlos Alba

SETTING

TIME: Now
PLACE: Here

MUSICAL NUMBERS AND MONOLOGUES

“Relativity” .................................................................................................................. Julie and Ensemble
“I’m Allergic to Cats” .................................................................................................. Paul
“Cake (part 1)” ............................................................................................................ Catherine
“Pi (part 1)” ................................................................................................................... Adam
“The End of the Line” ................................................................................................. Sara and Jenny
“Great Expectations” .................................................................................................. Catherine, Mike and Ensemble
“Footprint” .................................................................................................................... Ryan
“Cake (part 2)” ............................................................................................................ Catherine
“Pi (part 2)” ................................................................................................................... Adam
“Lipstick” ...................................................................................................................... Jenny and Anthony
“Apples and Oranges” ................................................................................................. Oliver and Mike
“Me & Ricky” .............................................................................................................. Caroline, accompanied by Jenny, Catherine, and Sara
“Promise Me This” .................................................................................................... Mira
“Cake (part 3)” ............................................................................................................ Catherine
“Pi (part 2.5)” ............................................................................................................... Adam
“Julie’s Song” .................................................................................................................. Julie
“Pi (part 3)” ................................................................................................................... Adam
“Relative Pitch” ........................................................................................................... Ensemble
“You Will Never Know” .............................................................................................. Anthony, Ryan, Amy and Ensemble
“Manicure” .................................................................................................................... Amy
“Nothing Without You” .............................................................................................. Ensemble
Neil Bartram and Brian Hill’s musical *The Theory of Relativity* takes a unique approach: it explores the idea of human connection through Einstein’s Theory of Relativity, and through the lens of college students. Bartram and Hill were commissioned by Sheridan College in Canada to write an age appropriate musical specifically for their theatre students. They went to Sheridan, thinking they were going to hear typical theatre kid stories about wanting to be a star on Broadway, frustrations with not getting cast, and the thrill of being onstage. What they got instead were hours and hours of young people talking about their lives, where they came from, what they struggle with, what they’ve gained and lost already on their way. How hard it is to leave home and family and try to be an adult. Their attempts to find their place in our busy, fast paced world of high expectations. Trying to find out how to connect. How to matter. How to take a chance on love and friendships. So many things we can relate to, even if we are long past college days. Thus, *Theory of Relativity (A Musical)* was born.

What you will see on stage at Marquette Theatre are stories about real young people, stories that may seem not connected at first, but eventually we see that they are. We as humans are all looking to find our way, and to find our connections to others, to be seen and heard and needed. A place to belong, people with whom to belong. Basic human connection. The play uses the device of the Theory of Relativity, and the word “relativity” itself, to make the point. And the writers decided to not tell these stories all in spoken word, but by using the beauty of music. Nothing is so powerful to evoke feelings and memories than the human voice in song.

It is our hope that you will find ways that you personally connect to these young people and their stories. Perhaps their struggles are not that far removed from the struggles you had in your youth, or ones you have today. There is a need in our troubled times for recognizing and valuing that human connection, for remembering that we all have the same wants and needs, no matter who we are or where we come from. That connection, that love, that “home” can be found with people anytime and anywhere. We find hope in this play, and we hope that it will leave you with a smile, for you, and one to share with others.

“I exist only if observed. I am nothing without you.” — Bartram & Hill

“Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.” — Albert Einstein

Thank you for joining us for a few hours of live theatre this season, which we’ve entitled ‘Dream Come True’. Without you as an audience, our work as a theatre is not complete. Your presence is a necessary part of what we do. Also, by purchasing your ticket, you are helping to support our high-quality productions. You help to provide the kind of quality that audiences have come to expect. You also help to provide a professional quality experience from which our students can continue to learn.

Word of mouth is always the best form of advertising. We hope that if you enjoyed your time with us, you will pass along any good words to friends, families and acquaintances. This simple act also helps to keep our productions supported.
Carlos Alba (Mike)
Carlos is honored to be making his acting debut with Marquette Theatre. Carlos is a freshman majoring in Secondary Education and English and minoring in Theatre Arts. Having graduated from Milwaukee Public Schools, Carlos is beyond excited to continue to grow and learn in Milwaukee and Marquette. He really hopes you enjoy the show!

Agnes Connolly (Mira)
Agnes Connolly is a senior, studying Theatre Arts and Journalism. She is forever thankful for her parents, her sister, her incredible friends and the countless number of people who have supported her in any way whatsoever. Support the arts! Thank you to all the amazing mothers in the world, those who are here and those who are not, who have always been constant beacons of love and encouragement for their children. For Mary, Peggy and Mary.

Tino Dentino (Caroline)
Tino is a sophomore Theatre Arts major at Marquette University. This is her second time joining the cast of a mainstage show and she can’t wait to show you all what the cast has been working on. The Theory of Relativity has been an exciting and nerve-wracking reintroduction to musical theatre for her. She would like to thank Deb for the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful and touching show, and her improv team for not replacing her after she missed all their practices in a desperate attempt to pursue her dream of becoming the biggest disappointment to her family of dentists. Another thanks goes to her dentist family for making sure her smile is in tip-top shape the one time of year it makes an appearance (Boxing Day). Enjoy the show!

Katie Dickey (Amy)
Katie is totally pumped to return to the Helfaer stage! She is a junior studying Corporate Communication and Theater Arts with a minor in Digital Media. Some of her recent credits at Marquette include Stache in Peter and the Starcatcher, Powdered Donut, Baker, and Ronnie in Arnie, the Doughnut and Marmee in Little Women. As always, she wants to give a special shoutout to her mom and the rest of her family for loving and supporting her theater journey. She is thrilled.

Liz De Vere Hunt (Jenny)
Liz is a senior majoring in Biomedical Sciences and minoring in Theatre Arts. She is thrilled to share this phenomenal show with everyone and hopes that you can connect to both the science and artistic aspects of the show. She would specifically like to thank Deb, Jackson, Niffer and Ruben for this incredible opportunity and for their unwavering patience and vision throughout this process. Liz would also like to thank her family, friends, and her late high school theatre director Mr. Quinlan, whom she would be nothing without. You all came out to see this production filled with her incredible cast-mates and hopes you enjoy the show!

Miranda Hunt (Julie)
Miranda is a freshman Theatre Arts major with a double major in History. She is very excited and grateful for this to be her Marquette debut! Most recently, back home in Colorado, she played Jo in Little Women and Ruth in Thoroughly Modern Millie. She wants to thank her cat for the inspiration for this show and as always, she thanks Kelsey for everything.
CAST BIOGRAPHIES cont.

Will Knox (Ryan)  
Will is a junior at Marquette University where he is majoring in Theatre Arts with a minor in Dance. Will was last seen on the Marquette mainstage as Mr. Bing in *Arnie, the Doughnut*. Will would like to thank Deb, Niffer, Ruben and the cast and crew for their support and hard work! Will would also like to thank his parents for all of their love and support on and off the stage. He hopes you all enjoy the show!  
willknox5.com

Caleb Kwasigroch (Adam)  
Caleb Kwasigroch has been performing since his sophomore year of high school. He is ecstatic to have his first mainstage performance in *The Theory of Relativity*. Caleb would like to thank his loving family, all of his real close friends, and Neil Patrick Harris for keeping him sane through these fun, yet difficult past few weeks; and for allowing him to put on this wonderful show with such a legendary cast.

Ben Lash (Anthony)  
Ben is a sophomore majoring in Theatre Arts and Cognitive Science. Recent credits include playing Smee in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and Chorus A/The Dictator in *Image of an Unknown Young Woman*, both of which were at Marquette. Above all else, Ben is extremely excited to work with the fantastic cast and crew of *The Theory of Relativity*, such a meaningful production. Enjoy the show!

Johannah Lee (Catherine)  
Johannah is a junior at Marquette double majoring in Theology and Theatre Arts. She is beyond ecstatic to be performing in her third mainstage with Marquette Theatre following *Little Women* (Meg) and *Arnie, the Doughnut* (Jelly/Sheila). Outside of performing, Johannah has dabbled in stage managing *ART!* and production managing the MUPS 2019 Playwrights Festival. A great big thank you to all who made this work of art possible including you in the audience. Everything we do affects those around us whether we see it or not; show kindness, spread joy, love abundantly.

Kaden Moss (Paul)  
Kaden is a freshman at Marquette, studying Theatre Arts and Advertising. He was most recently seen as Arnie in *Arnie, the Doughnut* earlier this year. He would like to thank Deb and Niffer for their direction, and his friends and family for their support.

Vivian Romano (Sara)  
Vivian is a sophomore, studying Theatre Arts and Dance. She is originally from Colorado, and her recent credits include *Mamma Mia!* and *Spamalot* at Sunset Playhouse. She is beyond excited to be making her Marquette Theatre debut with such an impactful and important show!

Eric Rorholm (Oliver)  
Eric Rorholm is a gay man from Spokane thrilled to be playing a gay man from Spokane! He is the Chair of MU College Democrats, an activist, and a designer in his junior year studying Theatre Arts, Political Science, & Arabic. He has interned at the U.S. House of Representatives and served local political campaigns. Credits: scenic/props design in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, lighting design in *Arnie, the Doughnut*, props in *Clybourne Park* at Marquette; and scenic design in *Les Miserables*, *The Jungle Book* at Spokane Children’s Theatre. So much gratitude to everyone who has been supportive and kind in my journey on this marble. Register to vote and own your power! #NotMeUs
**PRODUCTION STAFF BIOGRAPHIES**

**Maaz Ahmed** (Associate Lighting Designer) Maaz Ahmed is a sophomore studying Theatre Arts and Digital Media. He is the Assistant Lighting Designer for *The Theory of Relativity* and cannot be more excited to share this show with everyone! You may have seen him onstage as Prentiss in *Peter and the Starcatcher* earlier this year. He hopes you enjoy the show!

**Caitlyn Birmingham** (Stage Manager) Caitlyn Birmingham is a graduating senior who has a focus in stage management. She has worked on multiple shows throughout her years at Marquette and has also worked within the Milwaukee theater scene. She would like to thank her family and the friends she's made here for dealing with her crippling anxiety. She is so excited to present to you her last show at Marquette and she hopes that you have as much fun as she has!

**Jamie Cheatham** (Artistic Director) Jamie is a professional actor, director, fight director, and theatre educator. After 17 years of working professionally in New York City and 10 years of teaching at UW-Parkside, Jamie is thrilled to be at Marquette. He is a nationally recognized fight director with the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD) and has been working recently as the assistant fight director on *King Lear* on Broadway. Other professional work includes such theaters as: Milwaukee Rep, Alley Theatre (TX), Actor’s Theatre of Louisville, Arena Stage (DC), Shakespeare Theatre (DC), Milwaukee Ballet, the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Fireside Theatre, and the Georgia, Illinois, and NY (Delacorte) Shakespeare Festivals.

**Niffer Clarke** (Music Director) Niffer is an accomplished Theatre/Voice Instructor, Coach, Director and performer. She is grateful to be back at Marquette, where she’s directed: *Working*, *Company*, *Ivy and Bean* and *Dooby, Dooby, Moo*. She has also directed for the University of Pittsburgh, First Stage, Cardinal Stritch University, and Splinter Group. Niffer has taught musical theatre performance at the University of Pittsburgh, Marquette and First Stage, as well as presenting *Acting the Song* and audition workshops throughout the country. Later this spring, she will be directing *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* at Cardinal Stritch. As a professional actor, she has appeared Off-Broadway and in regional theatres across the country. Niffer’s solo album, *Beyond The Ingenue*, is available on iTunes, Amazon and CDBaby.

**Jackson Hoemann** (Assistant Director) Jackson is a junior studying Theatre Arts with a minor in Public Relations. This is Jackson’s first-time assistant directing a mainstage production, although he previously directed *Smokefall* in 2017 through Marquette University Player’s Society. He currently serves as Artistic Director for the organization. He would like to thank his family for constantly supporting his artistic endeavors, as well as Deb, Niffer, Caitlyn, this wonderful cast, and everyone else involved for giving him the chance to help tell this timeless and thoughtful collection of stories.

**Stephen Hudson-Mairet** (Scenic Designer, Department Chair) As chair of the Department of Digital Media and Performing Arts, Stephen is blessed to be working with a great faculty, staff, and student body, and he is happy to share their great work with you. This season marks Stephen’s 20th at Marquette. Thank you so much for your support of Marquette Theatre and Marquette’s theatre arts students. Stephen lives quite happily in a very old house in Wauwatosa with his wife Heidi, and daughters Emma and Grace.

**Debra Krajec** (Director) Deb has had a wonderful experience working with the amazing Niffer Clarke
and these talented young theatre artists on this meaningful production. She has had a fantastic time working with this ensemble who all make her proud enough to burst. A special thank you to Assistant Director Jackson Hoemann whose thoughtful and caring insights helped shape the show. Deb serves as a faculty member, a Stage Director and a Costume Designer at Marquette. She received her MFA from Texas Christian University, and has worked professionally as a costume designer, a director, and an actress. In Milwaukee, Deb has designed costumes for Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, First Stage, Renaissance Theaterworks, and Next Act Theatre. She is very active in the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, where she is a Fellow of the Institute, and is a member of Actor’s Equity Association. She lives happily in Menomonee Falls with her patient husband David, 2 Shetland Sheepdogs and 2 calico cats.

Shyla Kyser (Assistant Scenic Designer)
Shyla Kyser is a sophomore double majoring in Theatre Arts and Psychology and is extremely excited to be a part of this production. Off-stage, she has been Sound Operator for Little Women and Sound Designer for Dooby Dooby Moo, Peter and the Starcatcher and Sound Designer and Stage Manager for The Rivals. On-stage, she has played Leyla in Image of an Unknown Young Woman. She would like to thank the Theatre Department leaders for pushing her to do her best, and her family for their love and support.

Chester Loeffler-Bell (Lighting Designer)
Chester is pleased to work again with the Marquette faculty, staff, and students on another exciting season of fine work. Other recent experience includes light designing Chesapeake for In Tandem Theatre, three seasons as Production Manager for the Chamber Theatre, two years as a faculty member at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington, one year as a Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Deputy, and four seasons as Lighting Supervisor with the Milwaukee Repertory Theater. He holds a BA in Theatre from Carroll College and a MFA in Lighting Design from the University of South Carolina. Chester lives in Mukwonago, Wisconsin with his wife Susan and sons Harry, Sam and Joe.

Ruben Piirainen (Accompanist)
Ruben Piirainen is a Milwaukee-based pianist, music director, vocal coach, composer, teacher, and restaurant owner (Sabrosa Cafe & Gallery in Bay View). He is currently on the piano faculty at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. He was on the music staff of the Florentine Opera for six seasons where he coached and accompanied the Studio Artist Program, was involved with music preparation for all mainstage productions, played in the pit orchestra, presented a recital of new operatic works at the National Opera Center in New York, and performed solo recitals with opera stars Alyson Cambridge and Noah Stewart. He has also worked extensively with Skylight Music Theatre, Present Music, Kenosha Symphony Orchestra, Festival City Symphony, Theatre Gigante, Sunset Playhouse, Music by the Lake, Opera for the Young, and Milwaukee Opera Theatre, where he will be featured as Rachmaninoff in their March production of Dave Malloy’s Preludes. His original children's opera A Busy Bee was commissioned and premiered by the Florentine and received subsequent performances by Opera Carolina; his two one-act operas Juliette et Roméo and Kirsti and the Priest will be premiered by the Opera Theatre of University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee this March. He is a recording artist with Hal Leonard Corporation and has also been on the faculties of Interlochen Arts Camp, Bluffton University, and Bowling Green State.
University. Piirainen holds degrees in piano performance from the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music and Bowling Green State University. He is also Music Director at Unitarian Universalist Church West in Brookfield.

**Connie Petersen** (Costume Shop Manager)
Connie is happy to return for her 18th year with her family here at Marquette University. She received her B.S. degree in theatre from Northwest MO State University and M.F.A. degree in Costume and Scenic Design from SIU- in Carbondale, IL. She has also designed for Next Act Theatre, Des Moines Metro Opera, Denver Center Theatre Company, and Playmakers Repertory Company at UNC-Chapel Hill. Connie is enjoying her spare time in Elm Grove with her daughters, Emma and Olivia.

**Derly Vela** (Sound Engineer)
Derly is a senior majoring in Criminology and Law Studies. He sound designed *Arnie, the Doughnut* and has worked sound board for a variety of shows. He has also performed in two mainstage productions, *Working* and *Little Women*. He hopes you enjoy the show.

**Grace Weir** (Costume Designer)
Grace Weir is a junior majoring in Theatre Arts with a costume design emphasis, and minors in Studio Art and History. Grace has previously worked on Marquette University’s mainstage as Costume Designer for *Dooby Dooby Moo*, Co-Costume Designer for *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* and Assistant Costume Designer for *Image of an Unknown Young Woman*. She hopes that you enjoy the show!

**Devon Wiensch** (Assistant Stage Manager)
Devon Wiensch is a sophomore transfer student from Mequon, WI. This is their second performance at Marquette, preceded by two tours with Up with People, casts B’17 and A’18. Dev wants to thank their parents and brother for everything they’ve done and all the support they give.
PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director ................................................................................................. Chester Loeffler-Bell
Assistant Director ................................................................................................. Jackson Hoemann
Stage Manager ........................................................................................................ Caitlyn Birmingham
Assistant Stage Manager ....................................................................................... Devon Wiensch
Accompanist .......................................................................................................... J. Ruben Piiranen
Choreography for “Great Expectations” ................................................................. Will Knox
Scene Shop Supervisor ........................................................................................... Paul Gegenhuber
Assistant Scenic Designer ..................................................................................... Shyla Kyser
Associate Lighting Designer .................................................................................. Maaz Ahmed
Light Board Operator ............................................................................................. William Newman
Followspots ............................................................................................................ Emma Kielgas, Lizzie Porter
Sound Engineer ...................................................................................................... Derly Vela
Sound Board Operator ............................................................................................ Ellie Midtvedt
Deck Crew ............................................................................................................... Brooke Rodden, Mario Walker, Sami Woldt
Master Electricians ................................................................................................. Liz De Vere Hunt, Miranda Hunt
Scenic Shop Assistants ........................................................................................... Maaz Ahmed, Isaac Brust, Kelsey Harlow,
Will Knox, Emily Kraus, Shyla Kyser, Mitchell Neunuebel,
Eric Rorholm, Pia Russo, Derly Vela, Abby Wass
Scenic Shop Build Crew ......................................................................................... Isabelle Andress, Sky Chen, Giorgia Cozzo,
Bridget Kelly, Ben Lash, Ellie Midtvedt, Kaden Moss,
William Newman, Lizzie Porter, Jazmin Reyes, Charlie Waitkus, Sami Woldt
Costume Shop Manager ......................................................................................... Connie Petersen
Cutter/Draaper ......................................................................................................... Amy Horst
Wardrobe Supervisor ............................................................................................. Mason McNical
Wardrobe .................................................................................................................. Aleah Ibarra, Asia Middleton
Costume Shop Assistants ....................................................................................... Caitlyn Birmingham, Agnes Connolly,
Giorgia Cozzo, Elizabeth De Vere Hunt, Katie Dicke, Johannah Lee, Piper McCaffrey,
Malaina Moore, Amelia Thompson, Grace Weir
Costume Shop Build Crew ...................................................................................... Carlos Alba, Sam Gutierrez,
Kelsey Harlow, Lily Haugen, Miranda Hunt, Aleah Ibarra, Emma Kielgas, Caleb Kwasigroch,
Sebastian Locke, Martilia Marechal, Alanna McCauley, Mason McNicol, Asia Middleton,
Kaden Moss, Deija Richards, Devon Wiensch
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Jim Guy, Milwaukee Repertory Theater Props Department

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