

**PLAYBUILD
YOUTH INTENSIVE
SHOWCASE**



GOODMAN THEATRE

WELCOME

I have always been of the belief that theater isn't just something that you watch. It is something that you experience. It is something that you *feel*. In your bones. In your heart. In your soul. It's the electricity that sparks when a group of people come together to make something bigger than themselves. It's the quiet courage of someone stepping into a role for the very first time. It's the trust that forms when a group of strangers become collaborators, ensemble members and, eventually, friends.

Therein lies the magic of the Goodman's Summer Youth Intensives.

Over the past several weeks, the remarkable young artists you will see tonight have used the tools of theater to explore, question, create, and transform. For hours in the Alice Rapoport Center for Education and Engagement, they have worked with passion and persistence to bring their stories to life. And in doing so, they've built something powerful: a beloved community rooted in care, creativity, and curiosity.

Whether they were warming up, writing scenes, or diving into creative and embodied research, these young performers have shown up for one another each and every single day. They've taken risks together. They've celebrated victories both big and small together. They've found strength in their vulnerability together. Tonight, they invite us into the community they have built, offering us a glimpse of the imagination, rigor, and heart that defined their summer. I can't think of a better way to spend a Monday evening nor a more powerful reminder of why theater matters.

A huge and heartfelt thank you to our incredible PlayBuild Teaching Artists: Charles, Kirsten and Robbie. Your guidance, artistry, and leadership have helped shape every second of this summer and every moment of this showcase. To Tyra and Anna: thank you for your vision and your fierce commitment to making this work possible.

And to all of you here with us tonight: thank you! Thank you for showing up for these young people. Thank you for making space for their voices. And thank you for being part of this community we are all building, together.

Enjoy the show.



JARED BELLOT

Clifford Director of Education and Engagement

ARTISTS (in alphabetical order)



ABIGAIL "ABBY" POSTON
"Abby here, enjoy the show!"



ALLISON BROOKS
"Passionate about beats, lyrics and melodies."



AUSTIN PENA
"Enjoy our show."



BARBARA SALAAM
"Dreams don't work unless you do."



CAIDENCE EDWARDS
"Just you wait. Just you wait."



CARRIE KATZ
"man am i the greatest"



WRENNY HUSSEY-GONZALEZ
"Complex stories written in my mind."



CELESTE CORADO
"With God, all things are possible."



COLETTE SCHIMP
"Life's too short, eat the cake."



EMMA ARCHER
"Fall seven times, stand up eight."



ETHAN LEWIS
"I love clothes."



HENRIKAS TATARUNAS
"I am concise."



LUNA "RIN" DE LA PENA
"For the hunger and nothing less."



MALIA SHUMPERT
"Where words fail, Art speaks."



MORGAN FRIEDLANDER
"My cats start revolutions at 3am."



NADIA ARELLANO
"Don't give up on your dreams."

ARTISTS (in alphabetical order)



NAYLA GOMEZ

"It is pronounced
N - eye - Lah"



NEVEAH RAHY

"More to grow, more to
to be"



NICHOLAS CROWDER

"I'm Nicholas, The One
and Only"



OLLIE REYES

"She doesn't know
I'm the alpha."



SEBASTIAN ROSAS

"Ego ain't weakness,
it electrifies greatness."



SKYE ANDRONACHE

"Skye Pie the Dragonfly"



SORA EVANS

"Rooted in calm, fueled by
focus, building meaning."



TERRI ANN CURRY

"Your light, it comes from
within"



YUMI YAMAGUCHI

"Passionate about beats,
lyrics, and melodies."



***KIRSTEN BAITY**

"For Pappy and full
circle moments."



***CHARLES ANDREW GARDNER**

"So proud of these young artists."



***ROBBIE DISTASIO**

"Life is not a dress
rehearsal!"

* Denotes Goodman Teaching Artist

Special Thanks

Thank you to PlayBuild Teaching Artists Kirsten Baity, Charles Andrew Gardner, Robbie Distasio, the Cultural Center of Chicago, Intimacy and Violence Director Gregory Geffrard, the Education and Engagement Committee, the Cast of *The Color Purple* and Goodman's Education and Engagement sponsors (full listing on the last page) for all your support!

REST AND RESISTANCE

“Burn Out”

Featuring Ollie, Henrikas, Nadia, Sebastian,
Sora, Nayla, Carrie, Neveah, Wrenny, Malia

“Fast Fashion”

Featuring Henrikas, Terri, Caidence and
Luna “Rin”

“Don’t Give Up on Me”

Featuring Nayla and Yumi

“The Teacher Lounge: How to Deal with Assholes”

Featuring Caidence, Morgan, Wrenny and
Barbara

“The Lunchroom”

Featuring Skye, Abby, Austin “AJ” and Ethan

“The Cheater”

Featuring Nicholas, Sebastian, Celeste,
Nadia, Neveah and Barbara

“Breaking News (You Know the Rest)”

Featuring Emma, Sora, Allison, Nayla, Ollie
and Terri

“Vigil”

Featuring Luna “Rin,” Sora, Emma, Malia,
Abby, Nayla

“Anxiety”

Featuring Emma, Nadia, Sora, Celeste,
Carrie, Yumi

“Mask-ularity”

Featuring Morgan, Ethan, Sebastian,
Nicholas, Ollie, Henrikas, Yumi and Austin
“AJ”

“Victim Blaming”

Featuring Emma, Carrie, Wrenny, Coco,
Neveah, Nadia, Maliah, Allison

“Rest Choreopoem”

Featuring Henrikas, Emma, Ollie, Coco,
Malia, Nayla, Terri, Skye, Allison, Abby,
Carrie

“Dream with Me”

Featuring the 2025 PlayBuild Ensemble

ABOUT THE PLAYBUILD YOUTH INTENSIVE

The Goodman's PlayBuild Youth Intensive (PlayBuild) is an entirely free, four-week program for 14 to 18-year-old students in the Chicago metropolitan area committed to pushing the bounds of creativity, storytelling and performance in theater arts. Held at the Goodman, this program gives students the opportunity to learn a wide range of skills from local industry professionals and devise an original theater production created by the PlayBuild ensemble.

PlayBuild acquaints students to the techniques used for devised theater, building and refining their skills in:

- Acting
- Playwriting/Creative Writing
- Improv
- Physical Theatre
- Ensemble Work
- Viewpoints

Designed to validate the voices of its participants, PlayBuild teaches students how to examine their own potential for creativity and use their training to cultivate works of art that emphasize the importance of civic responsibility and social change.



ABOUT GOODMAN THEATRE

Chicago's theater since 1925, Goodman Theatre is a not-for-profit arts and community organization in the heart of the Loop, distinguished by the excellence and scope of its artistic programming and community engagement. Led by Walter Artistic Director Susan V. Booth and Executive Director John Collins, the theater's artistic priorities include new play development (more than 150 world or American premieres), large scale musical theater works and reimagined classics. Artists and productions have earned two Pulitzer Prizes, 22 Tony Awards and more than 160 Jeff Awards, among other accolades.

The Goodman is the first theater in the world to produce all 10 plays in August Wilson's "American Century Cycle." Its longtime annual holiday tradition A Christmas Carol, now in its fifth decade, has created a new generation of theatergoers in Chicago. The Goodman also frequently serves as a production and program partner with national and international companies and Chicago's Off-Loop theaters.

Using the tools of theatrical practice, the Goodman's Education and Engagement programs aim to develop generations of citizens who understand and empathize with cultures and stories of diverse voices. The Goodman's Alice Rapoport Center for Education and Engagement is the home of these programs, which are offered for Chicago youth—85% of whom come from underserved communities—schools and life-long learners.

Goodman Theatre was built on the unceded homelands of the Council of the Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi Nations. We recognize that many other Nations consider the area we now call Chicago as their traditional homeland—including the Myaamia, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac and Fox, Peoria, Kaskaskia, Wea, Kickapoo and Mascouten and remains home to many Native peoples today. The Goodman is proud to have a relationship with Gichigamiin Indigenous Nations Museum. Located in Evanston, the Museum honors the survival and perseverance of Indigenous communities and promotes a greater understanding of Indigenous peoples: www.Gichigamiin-Museum.org

Goodman Theatre was founded by William O. Goodman and his family in honor of their son Kenneth, an important figure in Chicago's cultural renaissance in the early 1900s. The Goodman family's legacy lives on through the continued work and dedication of Kenneth's family, including Albert Ivar Goodman, who with his late mother, Edith-Marie Appleton, contributed the necessary funds for the creation of the new Goodman center in 2000.

Julie Danis is Chair of Goodman Theatre's Board of Trustees, Lorraine Weiss is Women's Board President and Kelli Garcia is President of the Scenemakers Board for young professionals.

EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT STAFF

JARED BELLOT.....*Clifford Director of Education & Engagement*
TYRA BULLOCK.....*Associate Director of Education*
ANNA ROGELIO JOAQUIN.....*School Programs Manager*
DEMI SMITH.....*Associate Director of Engagement*
CARLO ZENNER.....*Community Programs Manager*

PLAYBUILD YOUTH INTENSIVE TEACHING ARTISTS

KIRSTEN BAITY.....*Lead Teaching Artist (Dramaturgy/Playwriting)*
CHARLES ANDREW GARDNER.....*Lead Teaching Artist (Acting/Performance)*
ROBBIE DISTASIO.....*Assistant Teaching Artist*

PRODUCTION STAFF

BRIANA FAHEY.....*Production Manager & Head of Stage Management*
ANNA VU.....*Stage Manager*
EMILY LOWNEY.....*Stagehand*
AIMEE SWEET.....*Light Board Operator*
CHRISTINE BURQUEST.....*Sound Board Operator*
DAVID NAUNTON.....*House Audio Supervisor*
GINA PATTERSON.....*Lighting Supervisor*

GOODMAN LEADERSHIP

SUSAN V. BOOTH
Walter Artistic Director

JOHN COLLINS
Executive Director

UP NEXT:

MUSICAL THEATRE INTENSIVE SHOWCASE



MONDAY, AUGUST 11 AT 7PM
OWEN THEATRE

Join us for another exciting showcase featuring the teen ensemble in the Goodman's Musical Theatre Intensive! What happens when we look beyond the lights and sounds of Broadway? Come find out in this showstopping performance that uses skills in acting, singing and dance to examine the social, political and cultural implications of musical theater.

Visit <https://www.goodmantheatre.org/event/musical-theatre-intensive-showcase-2025/> or email SummerPrograms@GoodmanTheatre.org to learn more.

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SUPPORT FOR SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS



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Commitments as of June 26, 2025