

AWAKEN,



MY LOVE



2026 MUSICAL THEATER INTENSIVE SHOWCASE



THE
GOODMAN

WELCOME

"An artist's duty, as far as I'm concerned, is to reflect the times." — Nina Simone

Early in the program, I had the opportunity to spend a morning with this ensemble exploring how our identities and lived experiences shape how we experience the world and the stories we tell. As we wrestled with those ideas together, I kept returning to one simple phrase: Context is key.

What brought me the greatest joy wasn't that conversation—it was what happened next. Every time I wandered back into the halls of the Alice Rapoport Center for Education and Engagement, I'd inevitably be met with a mischievous grin and a whispered, "Context is key!" What began as a simple phrase had become part of the ensemble's shared language.

That transformation didn't happen by accident. Over more than 130 hours together, an extraordinary team of Teaching Artists cultivated an environment where considering context became a habit of mind. Through rehearsal, movement, music and conversation, they invited these young artists to explore the social, political and cultural contexts of musical theater, asking not only how stories are told, but why, whose stories are centered and what those stories ask of us.

This ensemble discovered that art doesn't happen in a vacuum. It is shaped by our lived experiences, our histories and our communities. They came to understand that art making is more than a creative act—it is a way of engaging with the world. Stories help us make sense of our moment, deepen empathy and invite us into conversation. They learned that artistry isn't only about technical excellence; it's about curiosity, compassion and the courage to pay attention.

That spirit lives at the heart of *Awaken, My Love*. This showcase celebrates young artists who have grown not only as performers, but as thoughtful storytellers who understand that the work they create is informed by the world around them and, in turn, has the power to shape how we see it.

At The Goodman, we believe the arts create opportunities to imagine, share and connect. This ensemble is a powerful reminder of what is possible when young people are trusted with meaningful questions and supported by those who believe deeply in their potential.

My deepest thanks to our extraordinary Teaching Artists—McKenzie Chinn, Kyle Anthony Cortés, Darian Tene Hicks, Sonia Goldberg, Matthew Harris and Taylee Heldt—for creating a space where these young artists could grow as artists, collaborators and engaged citizens. Thank you as well to Associate Director of Education Tyra Bullock for your steadfast support of our Teaching Artists and your unwavering commitment to young people.

To families, friends and Goodman community: thank you for celebrating these young artists and making space for their voices. I hope *Awaken, My Love* leaves you inspired by their artistry, challenged by their questions and reminded—as this ensemble reminded me all summer—that great art begins by paying attention to the world around us.

Enjoy the show.



JARED BELLOT
CLIFFORD DIRECTOR OF
EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

CAST

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

ANGEL HUERTA



"RISE TO THE TOP,
OR DROP"

AVA TUREK



"MY WHOLE WORLD
IS A STAGE."

AVERY LEVITT



"I'M A WEIRDO BUT
I'M REAL THOUGH <3"

AVI GROSSMAN



"ALWAYS STUNTIN', LOOK
STUNNIN' EVERY NIGHT"

BRIANNE DAVIS



"'GOD SHALL SUPPLY ALL
YOUR NEED' PHILLIPPIANS 4:19"

CHLOE HINDS



"I'M NEVER QUIET
ON THE CREEK."

DANICA PAVIC



"I'M WILLING TO
WAIT FOR IT"

ELISABETH CAMI



"KEEP YOUR DREAMS
ALIVE WITH CONSISTENCY"

ELLYANNA STEARN



"JUST A GIRL IN
THE WORLD!"

EMMA SENNETT



"LADIES LADIES ONE
AT A TIME"

ETHAN CHAN



"I ALWAYS RISE TO
THE CHALLENGE"

EZEKIEL RUIZ



"ARTIST TRYING TO
FULFILL THEIR DUTY"

CAST

CONT'D
(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

FRANCESCA RUGGIERI



"SHE'LL RISE UP TO
ANY CHALLENGE"

GIA MONET HINTIN



"SLOW & STEADY
WINS THE RACE"

ISABELLA OYOLA



"HOPE YOU ALL ENJOY THE SHOW!
LOVE BUBBLELICIOUS ♡"

KAVIA KAKODKAR



"THANK YOU FOR
TRULY LOVING ME"

KERRY (BOSS) TYUS



"NO SENTENCES, JUST
FIX MY CROWN!"

LIZZY HARR



"LALALALALALALA <3"

LONDON WARSAW



"THE GREATEST JOY IN
LIFE...LAUGHING"

LYLA TATARA



"I'M LYLA AND I LOVE
THEATER!"

MARCELINA JOHNSON



"YEAR FOUR, I GREW
UP HERE"

MARIAH HICKS



"FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT
OF FAITH -1 TIMOTHY 6:12"

NATALIE A. FREYTES



"I FINALLY FOUND
MY CUTIE MARK!!"

NYAI NEVAEH



"I'M AN ORANGE
MOON, REFLECTING."

CAST

CONT'D
(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

REN NELSON



"IGNITES THE NIGHT WITH
PASSIONATE FIRE !!!"

RENE HARRIS



"I AM THE SUN, OCEAN,
AND PEARL."

SAM RUBIO



"I'LL BE HONEST,
I GOT NOTHIN'"

URIEL CASTAÑEDA



"AND THE WORLD STILL
KEEPS SPINNING "

URIEL MARTINEZ



"GODDESS ON STAGE,
HUMAN WHEN ALONE "

VALENTINA SISO



"BE THE CHANGE"

VIOLET FLEISCHHACKER



"SPARKLY UNICORN,
YOU JUST CAN'T TELL!"

TEACHING ARTISTS

MCKENZIE CHINN



"ANALOG GIRL IN
A DIGITAL WORLD"

KYLE ANTHONY CORTÉS



"TENOR-COMPOSER-
PERFORMER | LET'S BE REAL"

SONIA GOLDBERG



"ROOTING FOR YOU!
(YES, YOU!)"

MATTHEW HARRIS



"HONORED TO MAKE HIS
GOODMAN DEBUT!"

TAYLEE HELDT



"LOVE, LAUGH, LOVE
AGAIN FOR JAN."

DARIAN TENE HICKS



"DHONIS, MY SON,
DAWN, MY SUN"

Thank you to band musicians Paul Mutzabaugh (bass) and Noel Streaker (percussion); Cam Frontain; Alberto Mendoza; Hugo Hentoff; Em Casillas; the cast of Iceboy!; Goodman's Education and Engagement Committee and our Education and Engagement sponsors (full listing on the last page) for all your support!

MUSICAL NUMBERS & SCENES

Rush choreographed by Ezekiel Ruiz

Scooby by corook

MTI GPT1

To Be Real by Cheryl Lynn

Money GPT

Money from *Cabaret*

Dollar by I Am Roze

Sprinkles of Grief featuring Ezekiel Ruiz and Marcelina Johnson

MTI GPT 2

Rain by The Teskey Brothers

Earth Song by Michael Jackson

Home by Warsan Shire

Shadowland from *The Lion King*

MTI GPT 3

To Live, To Love, To Lose by Lizzy Harr; choreographed by Brianne Davis and Ezekiel Ruiz

Home from *The Wiz*

Human Again from *Beauty and the Beast*

ABOUT MUSICAL THEATER INTENSIVE

The Goodman's Musical Theater Intensive (MTI) is an entirely FREE, five-week pre-professional program, introducing and supplementing the musical theater knowledge of 14 to 18-year-old students in the Chicago metropolitan area. Held at The Goodman, this program gives students the opportunity to learn skills from local theater professionals as they enter the rigorous world of musical theater performance.

MTI acquaints students to the demanding lifestyle of performers as they refine their skills in:

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

Designed to build spaces that validate the voices of its participants and examine their own potential for creativity, MTI introduces students to the essential elements of the creation of musical theater, culminating in a performance on the Goodman's stage. This ensemble-building program invites students to look beyond the lights and sounds of Broadway to the social, political, and cultural implications of musical theater.



ABOUT THE GOODMAN

Since 1925, The Goodman has been a theatrical home for artists and a gathering place for Chicago—where bold stories spark connection, conversation and change. Now entering its second century, The Goodman builds on that legacy with an eye toward the future. Led by Walter Artistic Director Susan V. Booth and Executive Director John Collins, the theater continues to champion new work—building on a national reputation for commissioning and premiering original stories by living writers—while reimagining classics and producing large-scale musicals. Today, The Goodman's reach extends far beyond its Loop stages. From the intimate wonder of *The Magic Parlour* to immersive experiences like *Theater of the Mind*, the organization is expanding what theater can be, and where it can live. Citywide initiatives, including *100 Free Acts of Theater*, and collaborations with artists and companies across Chicago and around the world further deepen its impact. At its core, The Goodman believes a more empathetic, more connected city is built one story at a time. Generation-spanning productions and programs offer theater for a lifetime—from the youngest audiences in *Theater for the Very Young* (ages 0–5) to the beloved annual *A Christmas Carol*, now in its fifth decade. Education and Engagement programs reach thousands each year, the majority from underserved communities. Founded by William O. Goodman and his family in memory of playwright Kenneth Sawyer Goodman, the theater carries forward a legacy of artistic ambition and civic generosity. With the help of Mr. Goodman's descendants—Albert Ivar Goodman and his late mother, Edith-Marie Appleton—that spirit continues to shape its future as The Goodman expands its impact across Chicago and beyond.

The Goodman stands on the unceded homelands of the Council of the Three Fires—the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations—and acknowledges the many other Nations for whom this land now called Chicago has long been home, including the Myaamia, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac and Fox, Peoria, Kaskaskia, Wea, Kickapoo and Mascouten. The Goodman is proud to partner with the Gichigamiin Indigenous Nations Museum (Gichigamiin-Museum.org) and the Center for Native Futures (CenterForNativeFutures.org)—organizations devoted to honoring Indigenous stories, preserving cultural memory and deepening public understanding.

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
ISABELLA BUSTOS.....Education and Engagement Intern

MUSICAL THEATER INTENSIVE TEACHING ARTISTS

MCKENZIE CHINN.....Lead Teaching Artist (Acting)
KYLE ANTHONY CORTÉS.....Lead Teaching Artist (Music)
SONIA GOLDBERG.....Assistant Teaching Artist (Acting)
MATTHEW HARRIS.....Assistant Teaching Artist (Music)
TAYLEE HELDT.....Assistant Teaching Artist (Dance)
DARIAN TENE HICKS.....Lead Teaching Artist (Dance)

PRODUCTION STAFF

CLAUDETTE PRZYGODA.....Assistant Production Manager
STAGE MANAGER.....Hope Still
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR.....Aimee Sweet
SOUND BOARD OPERATOR.....Hannah Kwak
A2.....Bennett Smalley
STAGEHAND.....Emma Lipson

GOODMAN LEADERSHIP

SUSAN V. BOOTH
Walter Artistic Director

JOHN COLLINS
Executive Director

JOIN US IN SUPPORT OF OUR WORK

From first stories to lifelong storytelling, The Goodman's Education and Engagement programs invite Chicagoans of all ages to find their place in the creative process. Across every stage of life, we create opportunities to imagine, share and connect, grounded in a belief in the power of the arts to spark joy, strengthen well-being and deepen our understanding of our place within a larger community.

Our youth summer programs are an important part of this work, inviting teens from across our region to come together around their love of theater. As they study writing, acting, dancing and singing, they also learn how to give voice to their own stories, make unexpected connections with peers across our community and develop a powerful sense of belonging.

Offered completely free of charge, these programs are made possible by the support of thousands of donors. Please consider joining us by making a gift today in support of this work.

Visit my.goodmantheatre.org/donate/q/educationsupport to support our work.



2025/2026

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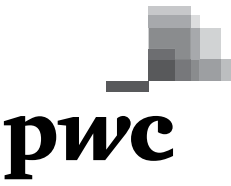
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