



Presents

MICRO

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Adam Qutaishat and Heidi Joosten
Part of the Wisconsin New Musicals Cycle

Cast:

Ali - Bryanna Plaisir
Joshua - Kevin Blakeslee
Ryan - Amanda Rodriguez
MJ - Maddy Sylvester
Steven - Ben Yela
Reader - Paul Lorentz

Creative Team:

Director: Ananda Deacon
Associate Director: Gina Gomez
Music Director: Adam Qutaishat
Stage Manager: Kristen Emery
Producer: Meghan Randolph
Pianist: Heidi Joosten
Transcriptions: Mark Wurzelbacher
Sound: Scott Glogovsky

This reading is made possible by a Writer's Residency Grant from the National Alliance for Musical Theatre and Frank Young Fund For New Musicals.

Micro received a developmental reading at The Lab. Learn more at thelab.blog

Many thanks to Lakeside Street Coffeehouse for the use of their beautiful space!

About the Artists

Kevin Blakeslee (Joshua) Most recently, Kevin played Richard in Music Theatre of Madison's production of *Little Miss Sunshine*. Other acting credits include: Billy Flynn in *Chicago*, Baker in *Into the Woods*, Freddy in *My Fair Lady*, Homer in *Floyd Collins* and Zangara in *Assassins*. Music directing credits *La Cage aux Folles*, *She Loves Me*, *Rent* and *Guys and Dolls*. Kevin holds a Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance and a Master's Degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Iowa.

Bryanna Plaisir (Ali) Bryanna is a graduate of UW-Madison, with degrees in Theatre and Drama and Applied Mathematics and a minor in Computer Science. Previous productions include *A Christmas Carol* (Children's Theatre of Madison), Desiree/Miss Michigan in *The Pussy Grabber Plays* (Voices Theatre), Kabiero in *Hephaestus* and Michelle Obama in *Beyond The Ingenue: Trailblazers* (Music Theatre of Madison), The Witch in *Into the Woods* (UW - University Theatre/UW-University Opera), and Chiffon in *Little Shop of Horrors* (UW- University Theatre). She is a Music Theatre of Madison Artistic Associate.

Amanda Rodriguez (Ryan) is delighted to be a part of the reading for this new work! BroadwayWorld nominated for her work as Mari Cruz in Nashville Children's Theatre's world premiere production of *Return to Sender*, based on the award-winning novel by Julia Alvarez . When not onstage, she is a teaching artist and performer in Whoopensocker, an education residency that utilizes creative arts for elementary school students. Notable credits: Olive Ostrovsky (*25th Annual...Spelling Bee*), Emily Webb (*Our Town*), Narrator (*Murder Ballad*).
www.theotheramandarodriguez.com

Maddy Sylvester (MJ) is thrilled to be back on stage after pausing due to COVID. She is a Purdue graduate where she studied Psychology, Theatre, and Art & Studio Design. She performed in the Purduettes, where she appeared on PBS and toured internationally. Recently, Maddy has worked on *Heathers* as Heather Chandler at Purdue. In her spare time you can find her painting, playing ukulele, and spending time with her kitten. Maddy would like to thank all of her friends and family that continue to support her in the arts.

Ben Yela (Steven) A theatermaker and musician, Ben co-founded 1419, an interdisciplinary arts collective, in Minneapolis in 2009. Moving to Milwaukee in September 2012, he became a founding member of Quasimondo Physical Theatre. Since, he's worked with several other Wisconsin companies as a performer, stage manager, and technician, including Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Skylight Music Theatre, Theatre Gigante, Cooperative Performance, Danceworks, Optimist Theatre, and Door Shakespeare. He's proud to be part of this new work with MTM!

Adam Qutaishat (Co-Writer) is a theatre artist and Associate Artistic Director at MTM. Adam was previously seen on stage with MTM in *Indecent* and *Held*. Adam served as director of *An American Mythology*; as the audio editor/sound designer of *Ten Days in A Madhouse* (The Podcast); And is writing music and lyrics for *Finding Me*. Adam's new play *Absent* premiered with All-In Productions in a workshop reading in November. You can learn more about their work at adamqutaishat.com.

Heidi Joosten (Co-Writer) is a musical polymath in the Chicagoland area – working as an improv and cabaret pianist, music director, voice and piano instructor, multi-genre composer, church musician, and harpist. When she's not in a rehearsal room, you can find her working as a score engraver for Hal Leonard, immersed in multiple composition projects and commissions, and improvising on the piano at the Annoyance Theater, iO, Piven Theater, and The Second City. Her compositions have been performed throughout the country as well as Canada, Europe, and Australia. Original musical projects include MICRO, SAINT HILDEGARD: the RUPERTSBERG TOUR (Theo Ubique), QUEER EYE: the MUSICAL PARODY (the Second City), and THE BONE HARP (Underscore Theatre Company). Heidi enjoys spending every moment of her free time with her pandemic puppy, Ruby. @heidijoosten / www.heidijoosten.com

Ananda Deacon (Director) Ananda fell in love with theatre in her freshman year of Nicolet high school in Glendale, WI. From costume to construction crew, from ensemble to lead roles, she has continued to fall in love with all aspects of theatre. Her fondest memories have been with the productions *Ragtime*, *Hairspray*, and *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. She has recently started writing social justice plays based on the principles of Augusto Boal, two of which have appeared in festivals at UW-Madison, and has run a social justice theatre camp for Black and Southeast Asian children. Pronouns: she/her

Gina Gómez (Associate Director) Gina is a Wisconsin-based performer, artist, and playwright with 20+ years of theatrical experience. She has performed in Minneapolis, working with Freshwater Theatre, Little Lifeboats Theatre, The Playwrights Center, and various other projects. She moved back to Madison in 2016 and dove right into the theatre arts scene. She has worked and played with various other professional and non-professional theatre companies throughout Madison, including Whoopensocker, Theatre Lila, Music Theatre of Madison, Madison Theatre Guild, Stage Q, Mercury Players Theatre, and Broom Street Theater. Her first written piece, *Best Friends Stab You (In The Front)*, premiered in April of 2019 at Broom Street.

Kristen Emery (Stage Manager) Kristen manages all contracts and company business. She has stage managed fifteen of MTM's productions, readings, and virtual events since arriving in 2016. Before moving to Madison, she worked as a general manager for Cardinal Stage Company in Bloomington, IN, where she also stage-managed their mainstage season. Kristen has also worked for Fresco Opera Theatre, Children's Theater of Madison, and SPCT in Madison, Legacy Theatre and the Long Wharf Theatre in Connecticut, and the Abingdon Theatre Company and OnTheSquareProductions in New York. Kristen is an elementary teacher in Sun Prairie and has led her school's drama club program since 2014.

Meghan Randolph (Producer/MTM Executive Director) Meghan's career as a performer, director, and arts/nonprofit manager includes work on the national tour of *Cats*, as well as MTM, Skylight Music Theatre, Madison Opera, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Theatre LILA, TAPIT/New Works, Children's Theater of Madison, Forward Theater, Four Seasons Theatre, Waukesha Civic Theatre, Middleton Players Theatre, Center Stage Performing Arts, Madison Trust for Historic Preservation, SAIL Madison, Monroe Theatre Guild, Strollers Theatre, Madison Rep, and more. Meghan is also the founder and artistic director of the Voices Theatre, where they produced and directed *The Exonerated* as a benefit for the Wisconsin Innocence Project, *The Pussy Grabber Plays* as a benefit for the Rape Crisis Center, and *White Rabbit, Red Rabbit* for Afghan refugee efforts (in cooperation with All-In Productions.) Meghan trained at Interlochen Center for the Arts (Camp and Academy) and earned a BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of Michigan and an MS in Arts Management from Drexel University. They founded MTM in 2005 and have grown the company to be one of the

few in the United States focusing specifically on lesser-known musical theatre. Meghan has also published arts marketing research internationally and is a vocal and acting coach in Madison. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Arts Administration from the University of Kentucky.

www.meghanrandolph.com

Paul Lorentz (Reader) Paul has been an actor in the Madison area since 1999 and has appeared in numerous productions with StageQ (most recently as Adam in *Next Fall*), KRASS, Strollers, Mercury Players, StageQ, Broom Street, Broken Dart Players, Madison Theater Guild and MTM (*Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens, Hostage Song, La Cage aux Folles*). Staged readings include *The Exonerated* for the Voices Theatre, and the 2021 *Picnic and a Play* series of readings of new local works at Shake Rag Alley in Mineral Point.

About Music Theatre of Madison

Music Theatre of Madison is a professional theatre now in its 15th anniversary season. Since its inception, MTM has focused on compensating local artists and producing works that represent the future of the musical theatre genre and its ability to connect community members. We have 37 full productions to our credit, as well as numerous readings and concerts, and have done outreach work with schools, libraries, senior centers, and elsewhere throughout South Central Wisconsin. We have presented locally-written work every year since 2018 and in 2021 we are focusing entirely on new works by Wisconsin artists. Our company has been nationally recognized and celebrated in American Theatre Magazine, through Americans for the Arts, the National Arts Marketing Project, and the National Alliance for Musical Theatre. Locally, we've been on "Best of the Arts" lists in Capital Times and/or Isthmus every year for a decade. Learn more at www.mtmadison.com.

Music Theatre of Madison acknowledges the history of bigotry and oppression in the theatre industry and works to counteract these wrongs through amplification of marginalized voices, elimination of prejudicial practices, and development of a brave space that is safe from all types of harm.

Music Theatre of Madison performs and works on the ancestral land called Teejop (Four Lakes) of the Ho-Chunk Nation (People of the Sacred Voice). They were forcibly removed from this stolen land many times and continued to return despite the danger. Their songs and stories tell of their proud history being here for more than three ice ages. MTM respects the sovereignty of the First Nations in Wisconsin. We acknowledge and celebrate the thriving Indigenous peoples of our community -- those who were here, those who are here, and those who will be here -- as we continue to bring new ideas and new artistic works to Madison's cultural landscape.

About the Wisconsin New Musicals Cycle

The Wisconsin New Musicals Cycle will develop and nurture new musical theatre works by Wisconsin-based authors, providing a three-part process: A reading (unstaged, in a casual setting), a workshop (semi-staged, with exhibits of renderings and vision boards as well as educational materials) and a full production (fully staged with orchestration, costumes, sets, and all other elements of a full production.) The process of development will be supported by Music Theatre of Madison's directors, performers, and designers. It will also, most importantly, rely on audience feedback throughout the process to help shape the stories and characters, resulting in truly collaborative Wisconsin originals.

The Process: In the same year as a fully-staged production, MTM will have a reading of a brand new piece, with the composer of the fully-staged production mentoring the new authors. Follow the process on MTM's blog and social media!

We need you!

Music Theatre of Madison has continued to produce safe, accessible, professional, innovative art, even throughout the pandemic. We are funded by grants, ticket sales, and generous donations from a variety of patrons.

Our Artist and Dream Fund has been in place since 2017 to assist us in creating the best possible environment for artists here in Madison. This year, our fund is focused on supporting better pay, shorter workweeks, increased work in underserved communities, and more. You can donate to the fund through December 31 at

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/mtm-2022-and-beyond-the-artist-and-dream-fund> or online any time at www.mtmadison.com/support .

We're so grateful to you for trying something new!



MUSIC THEATRE OF MADISON

2022 Season:

Small moments that change everything....

FINDING ME

A kid takes a walk down a school hallway...

April-December, Various libraries and schools

A biology student turns to music for answers...
June 19-20, Madison Opera Center

MICRO

TEN DAYS IN A MADHOUSE

A reporter takes an assignment...
August 19-27, 2022, Play Circle

A 23-year-old goes to the library...
Fall 2022, Venue TBD

MTM SWEET 16 CELEBRATION



mtmadison.com

Discover what's next.