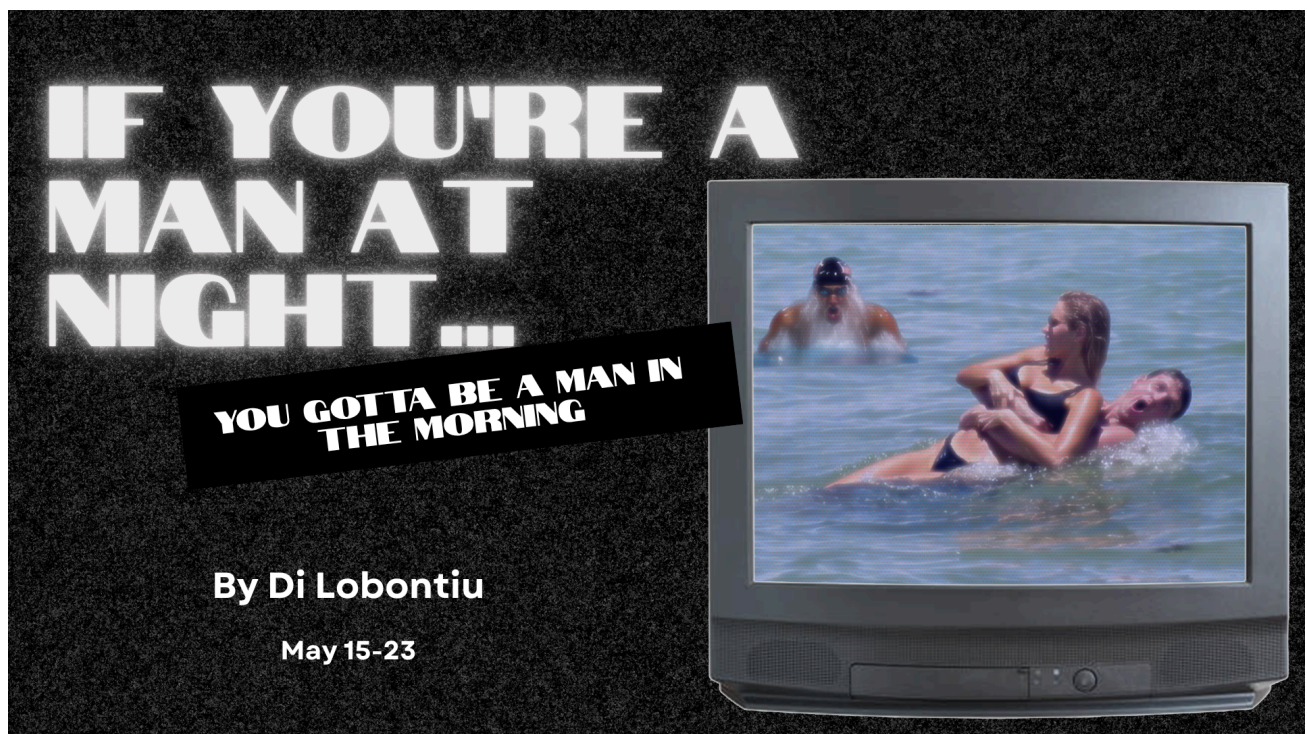


- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

**IF YOU'RE A MAN AT NIGHT...YOU GOTTA BE A MAN IN
THE MORNING
PREMIERING AT THE TANK NYC
MAY 15 - 23, 2026**



If You're a Man at Night...You Gotta Be a Man in the Morning, created by **Di Lobontiu**, will premiere at **The Tank** May 15th and run until May 23rd, 2026.

The year is 2016 and Ryan L*chte has just won his sixth Olympic gold medal in Rio de Janeiro. He is riding impossibly high until he fabricates a story about being robbed at gunpoint which was actually a drunken incident at a gas station. This results in a 10-month suspension, intense international scrutiny, and the loss of major sponsorships.

The year is 2020 and Ryan Lochte is trying to claw his way back to the 2021 Tokyo Olympics. He is dying of loneliness in his McMansion. He does crazy things in order to feel

seen. He manifests a robot composite of his wife, he fights his longtime rival Michael Ph*lips, he begs the audience for compliments.

The year is 2026, and 2016, and 2020, and we are gathered for a theatrical meditation on Ryan L*chte and the extinction burst of masculinity he represents. An all trans/gender nonconforming cast asks us how we can feel empathy for those whose bodies are so different from our own? What would you do if everything that once made you happy disappeared? How would you avoid hardening after a ritual shaming? Can we, the audience, give Ryan L*chte grace? Is there a way for us to “create the ‘Lympics inside us,” as Ryan says, and fill each others’ wells of loneliness? One way to find out.

If You’re a Man at Night...You Gotta Be a Man in the Morning features creator **Di Lobontiu** as well as performers **Utkarsh Rajawat** and **Dani Koenig**, and is directed by **Em Hausmann**.



[L-R: Di Lobontiu, Utkarsh Rajawat, and Dani Koenig]

[Artist Headshots & Graphics](#)

Di Lobontiu is a Romanian American playwright, actor, administrator, and educator based in Brooklyn. They are interested in exploring the intersections of masculinity, dominance + oppression, failure and loneliness. Diana’s work has been supported by MacDowell, Fresh Binder Productions, the Workshop Theatre, the Paragraph Workspace for Writers (Jane Hoppen LGBTQ Residency), and the Puffin Foundation. Recent writing includes *Bump->Set->Spike->Bruise* (Winner, Concord Theatricals Off Off Broadway Short Play Festival), *My Cousin Nelu Is Nelu Is Not Gay* (Ars Nova, The Brick), *Rentabutch* (Dyke Theater Co.), and *If You’re A Man At Night...You Gotta Be A Man In The Morning* (The Tank). MFA: Brooklyn College. www.dianalobontiu.com.

Utkarsh Rajawat is following the call of [Rasha Abdulhadi](#), who they know of through “[Notes on Craft](#)” by Fargo Nissim Tbakhi, to use their bio to uplift resistance efforts against

the US-sponsored, Israeli genocide of Palestinians (which is one of a complex of linked imperialist genocides being wrought by the US, like those in [Sudan](#), [Congo](#), and [Turtle Island](#)). You can contribute to the movement by donating to [the Sameer Project](#) and [individual campaigns](#), buying [e-Sims](#), [endorsing PACBI](#), attending [an action](#), engaging in [BDS](#). I hope more [institutions](#) are [moved](#) to full-throated [support](#), with their words, their resources, their (divestment from Israeli) money, as Palestinian people like those of [The Freedom Theatre](#) have been asking for. You can contact PACBI@wawog.com if you have questions or concerns, including legal ones, about your cultural or academic organization's commitment. From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.

Danielle Koenig has been lying to you. They go by Dani. And, yeah, maybe they should change their professional name to Dani Koenig, but that feels so casual. Life is hard. It's full of so many choices. This one will have to happen later. Dani's (Danielle's?) acting credits include *Charlotte Lucas is 27 and Not Dead* (Prospect Musicals, Ring of Keys), *Good Girls Go To Hell* (T4T Fest), and *504: A New Musical* (Musical Theatre Factory). They also voiced Lucille Ball in *Starring: Desi Arnaz and Wilmer Valderrama* for iHeart Radio. Danielle's (Dani's?) musicals have been developed by Second Stage, Prospect Musicals, Circle In The Square Theatre School, Syracuse University, and more. Their songs have been heard at theatrical venues across New York City including Joe's Pub, Rattlestick Playwright's Theater, 54 Below, Lincoln Center, and more. IG: [@danielle_koenig](#) | daniellekoenig.com

Em Hausmann is a Brooklyn-based Director/Theatre-Maker with a focus on new works development for shows that are wonderfully weird and otherworldly + queer and trans stories. Select directing: *500 Rats: A Love Story* (HERE Arts Center), *crabby* (Ars Nova ANT Fest), *Freak of the Week* (The Brick ?!: New Works), *Snow Bird* (Brooklyn Art Haus), *Miss Money HoneyBee* (The Madison Theatre), *Beethoven: Live in Concert* (Fort Salem Theater), *Thanks for the Mammaries* (Queens Short Play Festival; Winner: Best Director, Best Play). Alum of the 2025 Moxie Arts Incubator Directing Cohort. Associate member SDC. Resident Director: Neurodivergent Plays, Fresh Binder Productions. emhausmann.com @emhouseman

This creative team is joined by **Cori Diaz** (Stage Manager), **Whimzee Lee Hanna** (Lights/Projections Designer), **Sid Diamond** (Sound Designer), and **Steffany Poveda-Solorio** (Videographer).

The show will play at **The Tank**, 312 West 36th Street, New York, NY 10018 on the 6th floor according to the following schedule:

05/15/26 at 7:00 ET

05/16/26 at 9:30 ET
05/18/26 at 7:00 ET
05/20/26 at 7:00 ET
05/21/26 at 9:30 ET
05/22/26 at 7:00 ET
05/23/26 at 7:00 ET

To purchase tickets visit thetanknyc.org (\$25, \$35, or \$45 tickets available).

Contact: Di Lobontiu, dlobontiu99@gmail.com

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