

# NIAGARA UNIVERSITY THEATRE

presents



by **Naomi Iizuka**

Directed by  
**DAVE PETERSON**

Costume Coordinator  
**MAUREEN STEVENS**

Production Design  
**DAVID DWYER**

Stage Manager  
**CATRIONA GOODSSELL**  
(Class of 2021)

Video Design  
**LARS STOLPE**  
(Class of 2021)

*Good Kids* is the first work of a New Play Initiative established by the Big Ten Theatre Consortium. This collaboration among theatre departments will commission, produce, and publicize a series of new plays by female playwrights, with the goal of creating strong female roles.

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.  
([www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com))

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**Presented virtually**  
**Nov. 12—Nov 15, 2020**

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The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this  
Production is strictly prohibited.

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# RESOURCE AND INFORMATIONAL GUIDE

by Michael Kelleher, Dramaturg

*Trigger Warning: Explicit use of language and description of sexual violence.*

Coming into the world of *Good Kids* by Naomi Iizuka, it may be easy to think that this group of teenagers is struggling with issues far and distant from the town you call home. However, in terms of sexual violence in America, we cannot turn a blind eye to the events that happen every day. While unnerving, *Good Kids* educates us in order to advocate for victims and survivors of sexual assault and violence. The set of data below will help to contextualize important questions the play presents- Why do people blame the victim or survivor in an act of sexual violence? Why do people antagonize women for the way they act or dress? And most importantly, how often does an act of sexual violence actually occur?

In the United States of America, girls under the age of 18 have a 1 in 9 chance of experiencing some form of sexual abuse or assault <sup>(1)</sup>. Girls of the age 16-18 are 4x more likely to be victims of rape, attempted rape or sexual assault than the rest of the general population <sup>(2)</sup>. Looking at all age ranges, 9 out of 10 victims of rape are female <sup>(3)</sup>. Focusing on statistics related to the high school population, the trend of sexual violence continues to be strongly present. 58% of 7th -12th grades have reported experiences of sexual harassment and in the 2009-2010 school year, 600 cases of rape or attempted rape were recorded in American Public Schools, according to the Department of Justice and Department of Education in an annual school crime report <sup>(4)</sup>.

Aided with the heavy use of social media, a toxic Rape Culture has become prominent within our society. The term Rape Culture can be defined as “an environment in which rape is prevalent and in which sexual violence is normalized and excused in the media and popular culture.” Examples of this phenomenon include, but are not limited to: blaming the victim/survivor, publicly scrutinizing a victim/survivor’s dress, mental state, motive and history, assuming only promiscuous women get raped, and a tolerance of sexual harassment. There are many reasons why one attempts to blame the victim/survivor in this manner. Oftentimes, people attempt to distance themselves from an “unpleasant occurrence and thereby confirm their own invulnerability to the risk,” which results in participating in the culture. However, there are immense dangers to Rape Culture: it makes it more difficult for survivors to step forward and puts focus on what the abuser wants people to believe: that it is the victim’s fault <sup>(5)</sup>.

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Lastly, there is the **Bystander Effect**, or when witnesses fail to intervene in emergency situations, such as sexual violence. This effect stems from the belief that witnesses will be negatively judged by their peers, friends, family, or co-workers for stepping forward. There is simply the belief that it is not one's responsibility to get involved or that someone else will take action. But more often than not, it is a failure to notice signs of sexual assault that witnesses do not even realize they are witnesses to violence <sup>(6)</sup>.

**For more resources or guidance, please utilize the following services:**

- Niagara University Counseling Services: (716) 286-8536
- Niagara County Rape Crisis Services: (716) 285-3518
- National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-4673

## FOOTNOTE SOURCES:

1. David Finkelhor, Anne Shattuck, Heather A. Turner, & Sherry L. Hamby, The Lifetime Prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Assault Assessed in Late Adolescence, 55 Journal of Adolescent Health 329, 329-333 (2014).
2. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Sex Offenses and Offenders (1997).
3. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Female Victims of Sexual Violence, 1994-2010 (2013); ii. National Institute of Justice & Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences of Violence Against Women Survey (1998).
4. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Sexual Assault of Young Children as Reported to Law Enforcement (2000).
5. Tolliver, Leah. "Rape Culture." Womens Center, 2018, [www.marshall.edu/wcenter/sexual-assault/rape-culture/](http://www.marshall.edu/wcenter/sexual-assault/rape-culture/).
6. Hensman Kettle, Heather, and Robert Marx. "Bystander Effect; and Sexual Assault: What the Research Says." The Conversation, 17 Apr. 2020, [theconversation.com/bystander-effect-and-sexual-assault-what-the-research-says-104360](http://theconversation.com/bystander-effect-and-sexual-assault-what-the-research-says-104360).

# CAST

Skyler	Emily Augello
Daphne	Carissa Clarco
Amber	Katrina Copeland
Ty	Justin Durrett
Kylie	Gabriella Galante
Brianna	Cassidy Granchelli
Madison	Julia Hartloff
Chloe	Morgan Hilliker
Landon	Austin Marshall
Deirdre	Shelby McNulty
Connor	Tyler Olson
Tanner	Sean Taylor

## TIME

The Present

## PLACE

A Midwestern Town

**CAUTION:** *Good Kids* contains adult language and graphic descriptions of sexual violence.

*~ there will be no intermission ~*

# PRODUCTION

Producing Artistic Director	Steven Braddock
Technical Director	Jack Wrobel
Assistant Technical Director	Jason Stopinski
Costume Shop Director	Marilyn S. Deighton
Costume Shop Supervisor	Kari Drozd
Box Office Supervisor	Keirsten Thomas
Box Office Personnel	Catriona Goodsell, Tricia Lazatin
Dramaturg	Michael Kelleher
Swing Technician	Matthew Ball
Prop Acquisition Crew	Marley Judd, Jeremy Vicario
Costume Assistant/Runner	Amaya Mack
Video Production Manager	Lars Stolpe
Video Technicians	Anthony Chavers, Rylee Watson, Christian (CJ) Webster
Video Operators	Kyle Dempsey, Morgan Mincer
Costume Shop Assistants	Chloe Diebold, Tricia Lazatin, Emily Palmerchuck, Emma Viggiani, Christian (CJ) Webster
Scene Shop Assistants	Juan Aguirre, Carissa Clarcq, Spencer Dick, Lars Stolpe, Christian (CJ) Webster
Publicity	Derek Moran
Outreach	Benjamin Hayes
Social Media	Steven Braddock, Katrina Copeland, Adriano Gatto, Morgan Hilliker, Austin Marshall
Graphic Design	Suzanne Karaszewski
Playbill Coordination	Derek Moran
Photography, Playbill Headshot	Brian Rock
Photographer	

# UNPACKING *GOOD KIDS*

Please join us for a panel discussion following Niagara University Theatre's production of *Good Kids* by Naomi Iizuka.

The conversation will commence on Zoom (details below) following the Thursday performance of *Good Kids*. The performance begins at 7:00pm and will end at approximately 8:45pm.

## FEATURING:

**Megan Altman-Cosgrove**

Title IX Coordinator  
Niagara University

**Jennifer E. Beebe, PhD**

Associate Professor of Counseling/Education  
Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program Coordinator  
Niagara University

**Dana L. Radatz, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Criminology & Criminal Justice  
Niagara University

**Rachel Sandle-Sacco**

Rape Crisis Program Supervisor  
YWCA of the Niagara Frontier

## Zoom Talk Back:

Topic: Good Kids Talk Back

Time: Nov 12, 2020 08:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://niagara-edu.zoom.us/j/84429392089>

Meeting ID: 844 2939 2089

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,84429392089# US (New York)

+13126266799,,84429392089# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 844 2939 2089

Find your local number: <https://niagara-edu.zoom.us/j/kdxe3p3zd0>

# NIAGARA UNIVERSITY PLAYERS

The Niagara University Players is a student theatre organization that has been in existence for over sixty years and organizes social activities (Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas party, Kris Kringle gift exchange, annual Players' Banquet and more), fundraisers and community service activities. The NU Players also present an all-student production once a year. Join us this year for our production of *Independence*. Any NU student is eligible for membership (contact: [nuplayers@niagara.edu](mailto:nuplayers@niagara.edu)).

## NIAGARA UNIVERSITY PLAYERS BOARD OF OFFICERS 2020-2021

Co-Presidents	Michael Kelleher, Isabel Merkel
VP/Concessions	Ben Hayes
Secretary	Sydney McKinley
Treasurer	Julia Miskines
Co-Head Events & Diversity/ Inclusion	Nefantee Mayers
Co-Head Events	Reagan Zuber
Public Service	Marley Judd
Soireé/Banquet Head	Alyssa Garmone
Publicity	Morgan Hilliker
Apparel	Catrina Goodsell

## PLAYERS PRESENTS:

Artistic Director	Skylah Fields
Assistant Artistic Director	Tricia Lazatin
Technical Director	TBD

NU Theatre invites you to return in 2021 for our exciting spring lineup:

**NU Short Play Festival**  
*Vital Signs*  
*Independence*  
*An Ideal Husband*  
*Songs for A New World*

For more information on our upcoming shows, and to reserve tickets, please visit our website:

<https://theatre.niagara.edu/>

or contact our box office:

Ph: (716) 286-8685

Email: [boxoffice@niagara.edu](mailto:boxoffice@niagara.edu)

In 1986, a group of long-time theatre goers incorporated themselves as the Friends of Niagara University Theatre in order to raise awareness and develop support for the theatre department.

Now you too can join the Friends' efforts to help ensure the future of one of the oldest professional theatre training programs in the region, and help students both on and off stage.

For more information, please visit [theatre.niagara.edu/support](https://theatre.niagara.edu/support) or call 716-286-8483.

Join Today to help us build for Tomorrow!