

NiAGARA  
UNiVERSITY  
PLAYERS

**ART**

# Niagara University Players Presents

An All Student Run Production of

# ART

by Yasmina Reza

Translated by Christopher Hampton

Directed by:

Shelby Gainsborough Bukaty

Class of '23

Artistic Director:

JC Hartloff

Class of '23

Asst. Artistic Director:

Austin Marshall

Class of '24

Set Designer:

Taylor Grosskopf

Class of '23

Sound Designer:

Devin Klumpp

Class of '25

Technical Director:

Jackie Renaud

Class of '24

Costume Designer:

Sebastian Newell

Class of '25

Lighting Designer:

Emily Palmerchuck

Class of '23

Stage Managed by:

Sophie Chaney

Class of '25

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**March 3 - 5, 2023**

“Art” is presented by arrangement with Dramatists Play Service Inc.

<https://www.dramatists.com>

Produced on Broadway by David Pugh, Sean Connery and Joan Cullman,

March 1, 1998.

# 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, 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 Art. Any NU student is eligible for membership (contact:[nuplayers@niagara.edu](mailto:nuplayers@niagara.edu)).

## NU Players Board 2022-2023

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**Co-Presidents:** Taylor Grosskopf, Gabby Galante

**VP/Concessions:** Ryan Harbaugh

**Secretary:** JC Hartloff

**Treasurers:** Jamarion Evans

**Co-Head Events:** Devin Klumpp, Reagan Zuber

**Community Service:** Danielle Becht

**Soirée/Banquet:** Nyah Searles

**Publicity:** Elena Michele

**Apparel:** Jeremy Vicario

**Diversity and Inclusion Chair:** Shelby Gainsborough Bukaty

## Players Presents

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**Artistic Director:** JC Hartloff

**Asst. Artistic Director:** Austin Marshall

**Technical Director:** Jackie Renaud

# Director's Note

My name is Shelby Gainsborough Bukaty, I'm a senior here at Niagara University Theatre, and I was lucky enough to be given the opportunity to direct the show you are about to see (or have already seen, depending on when you are reading this). In this process, I learned many things. I can safely say, at the moment I am writing this, that this was not easy. Leading a project rarely is, with so many people depending on me and trusting in my abilities.

However, thanks to the enthusiasm, energy, skill, and flexibility of our production team and our cast, we persevered over the obstacles that faced us.

This project was built from the foundations of cooperation, trust, and understanding, and from that trust we present to you Art by Yasmina Reza.

Art is a show about perspective. We as people are the byproduct of experience, a mess of ideas and concepts that we absorb from our friends, our family, the media we consume, the things we come to understand as "good" and "bad".

Art, the concept, is inherently subjective, as the way we perceive the artistic media is immediately informed by our experience. My mother, who was raised on country music since her youth, would find more appreciation in a Johnny

Cash album than I would. On the other side of that, I, with my immediate connection to the internet in my youth and had exposure to EDM genres as a result, would find more to appreciate in a Porter Robinson album than she would. Neither perspective is correct, nor is either perspective incorrect. This contrast that we develop naturally through our lives is what fuels this show, with the characters' perspectives on art, and each other, conflict and clash in ways that speak to the way that friendship and toxic masculinity exist in immediate adversity to each other.

This show was selected by, produced by, built by, and run by students of

Niagara University and students alone. We are funded by the Niagara University Players, a student run club on campus dedicated to facilitating and advocating for theatrical education and students with an interest in theatrical study. It's an honour to represent the NU Players as the director of this production. I am one of, if not, the first transgender director of a main stage production here at Niagara University, and I hope that this inspires future trans students to be able to express their voices and empower them in this department. A hefty task for sure, but hey, it's the stuff dreams are made of. I hope you enjoy this show. I hope you are able to find some element of yourself in this show we have constructed for you. I hope that you had a safe journey here and have a safe journey home after bows have finished, and if nothing else, I hope this show makes you think.

Shine on,  
Shelby Gainsborough Bukaty

# Cast

In Order of Appearance

Marc      Lillian Jarzabek

Serge      Lauren Farrow

Yvan      Kayla Kurek

**Content Warning:** Adult Language

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# Production

Asst. Technical Director.....	Justin Kochetta
NU Players Faculty Advisor....	Keirsten Thomas, Dave Peterson
Faculty Technical Advisor.....	Primo Thomas
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Julia Cianfrini, Brittany Konruff
Wardrobe Head/Makeup and Hair.....	Grace Ventura
Wardrobe Crew.....	J'Naia Stepp, Becca Mansfield
Sound Board Operator.....	Emily McDonnell
Light Board Operator.....	Miguel Castaneda
House Managers.....	Ethan Eggleston, Danielle Becht
Head Usher.....	Logan Comstock
Box Office Supervisor.....	Keirsten Thomas
Box Office Manager.....	Morgan Mincer
Box Office Personnel.....	Christian Hines, Jeremy Vicario, Ro Dell'Acqua, Holly Ruggiero, Aaron Heron
Publicity.....	Kim Neiss
Graphic Design.....	Suzanne Karaszewski
Photography.....	Mark Duggan
Playbill Coordination.....	Austin Marshall

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[https://www.dramatists.com/dps/rights/choose\\_application.aspx](https://www.dramatists.com/dps/rights/choose_application.aspx)*

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## Special Thanks

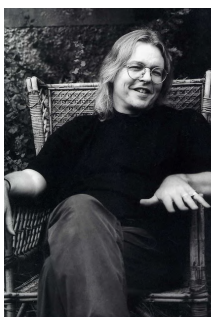
Sound Mixer: Joey Bastian  
Lighting Assistance: Matt DiVita  
Instrumentalists: Benjamin Weiner,  
Matthew Machelor, Quinn Petkus

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## Author Biographies



**YASMINA REZA** is a French playwright and novelist, based in Paris, whose works have all been multi-award-winning, critical and popular international successes, produced worldwide and translated into 35 languages. She has written seven plays (CONVERSATIONS AFTER A BURIAL, THE PASSAGE OF WINTER, "ART," THE UNEXPECTED MAN, LIFE X 3, A SPANISH PLAY, GOD OF CARNAGE, HOW YOU TALK THE GAME) and 6 novels ("Hammerklavier," "Une Desolation (Desolation)," "Adam Haberberg," "Dans la Luge d'Arthur Schopenhauer," "Nulle Part" and "L'Aube, le Soir ou la Nuit (Dawn Dusk or Night)"). Films include: "Le Pique-Nique de Lulu Kreutz," directed by Didier Martiny and "Chicas," written and directed by the author.



**CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON'S** plays and musicals have so far garnered four Tony Awards, three Olivier Awards, four Evening Standard Awards, and the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award; prizes for his film and television work include an Oscar, two BAFTAs, a Writers' Guild of America Award, the Prix Italia, a Special Jury Award at the Cannes Film Festival, Hollywood Screenwriter of the Year, and The Collateral Award at the Venice Film Festival for Best Literary Adaptation. Original plays: APPOMATTOX, THE TALKING CURE, WHITE CHAMELEON, TALES FROM HOLLYWOOD, TREATS, SAVAGES, THE PHILANTHROPIST, TOTAL ECLIPSE, and WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE MY MOTHER? Adaptations from novels: YOUTH WITHOUT GOD (Horváth), EMBERS (Márai), and LES LIASONS DANGEREUSES (Laclos). Musicals: STEPHEN WARD, DRACULA: THE MUSICAL, and SUNSET BOULEVARD. Libretti: APPOMATTOX, THE TRIAL, and WAITING FOR THE BARBARIANS (all for Philip Glass). Translations include plays by Chekhov, Ibsen, Molière, Horváth, Yasmina Reza, and Florian Zeller. Film includes: "Ali and Nino," "A Dangerous Method," "Chéri," "Atonement," "The Quiet American," "Dangerous Liaisons," "The Good Father," "The Honorary Consul," "Total Eclipse," "Mary Reilly," "Tales From The Vienna Woods," and "A Doll's House." He wrote and directed "Imagining Argentina," "The Secret Agent," and "Carrington." Television includes: "The Thirteenth Tale," "The Ginger Tree," "Hôtel Du Lac," "The History Man," and "Able's Will."

# Cast & Production Biographies

**SOPHIA CHANEY** is a freshman design and production major.



**LAUREN FARROW**, a sophomore from Rochester, N.Y., is a theatre performance major with a minor in design and production. Lauren is extremely excited to be returning to the Niagara University stage after her debut in the Moving Back Home: Niagara University Dance Theatre last season. Her other NU credits also include the Short Play Festival (Eve and Cara). Outside credits include The Addams Family (Morticia), Anything Goes (Charity) and Chicago (Featured Dancer).



**SHELBY GAINSBOROUGH BUKATY (She/They)**, also known as SGB, is a senior Theater Specialization - Directing major from Lancaster, NY. She acts as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair for the NU Players, and has been an active member of the Players for the last 2 years. She has been involved on and off stage at Niagara University, acting as Tom/Phyllis/Leslie in Sylvia, Bill in Ushers Through Intermission, Addison in Taking Sum Lumps, and Good Kids. She was the Stage Manager for the NU Players' production of girl., Assistant Stage Manager for Decision Height, Audio Crew for An Ideal Husband, Audio Crew for Songs For A New World, Swing Tech for Much Ado About Nothing, Light Board Operator for Freaky Friday, and Head Usher for Machinal. SGB directed I'm Only Sleeping for Niagara University Theatre's Short Play Festival 2022. Outside of the University, she has worked as a co-director for productions of Talk About A Murder! and Stay As Dead As You Are, and is a writer for Mashup Week: Megamix.



**TAYLOR GROSSKOPF**, a senior from North Tonawanda, N.Y., is pursuing a Theatre Performance major as well as minors in English and ASL. NU credits: NU Repertory Theatre (NURT), The Thanksgiving Play (Logan), Decision Height (Eddie), Independence (Evelyn), The Laramie Project (Reggie Fluty & others), 2021 Short Play Festival's Rules of Comedy (Caroline), Love, Mom (Mom), Mickey Cares (Director), and Baggage Unattended (Stage Manager), as well as The Musical of Musicals: The Musical (Stage Manager). Outside credits: At Ghostlight Theatre, The Silver Lady (Raven), and A Night of Dark Intent (Wilma). At NTHS, Shrek: The Musical (Dragon, Rat Tapper). She loves to be involved on and off the stage as she is the Co-President of NU Players and the Class of 2023 Treasurer.



**J.C. HARTLOFF**, a senior from East Aurora, N.Y., is pursuing a theatre performance major with minors in ASL and Deaf Studies and Design/Production. NU Credits: Anton in Show Business (Joby), Much Ado About Nothing (Messenger/Sexton), Good Kids (Madison), 2021 Virtual Short Play Festival's Once in a Blue Moon (Valentine Grace), An Ideal Husband (Mabel Chiltern), Decision Height (Alice Hawkins), Cabaret (Fräulein Schneider), and N.U.R.T 2022. Favorite Credits from St. Mary's High School: Is There a Comic in the House (Shotzie Starr) The Addams Family Musical (Uncle Fester)



# Cast & Production Biographies



**LILLIAN JARZABEK** is a freshman from Conesus, NY. She is currently pursuing a major in theatre performance. Outside credits: Livonia High School; Little Shop of Horrors (Audrey), All Shook Up (Natalie), The Lion King Jr. (student director/choreographer). OFC Creations; Rent (Joanne), Jekyll and Hyde (Emma), Heathers (Veronica).



**DEVIN KLUMPP** is a Sophomore performance student. His most recent theatrical endeavors include Victor in Cabaret, Harrison/Ensemble in Chicago, Jidder in Musical of Musicals (The Musical), and a member of Niagara University Repertory Theatre troupe. He is extremely excited to see what the next year holds for him at Niagara University!



**JUSTIN KOCHETTA** is a junior theatre performance major from Montgomery, New York. His previous NU credits: George H. Jones in Machinal, dancer in Moving Back Home: Niagara University Dance Theatre, and Dan in Dumpster Dan.



**KAYLA KUREK**, a freshman from Hamburg, NY., is a theater performance major. Past credits include: Company (Bobby, Larry), Heathers (Martha), Little Shop of Horrors (Chanel), Almost, Maine (Ronda, Marvalyne, Marci), Eurydice (Eurydice understudy, Ensemble), and Newsies (JoJo). Offstage credits: Mel's School of Music and Theater's The Little Mermaid (costume design), Footloose Jr. (Assistant Director, Set Crew), Annie KIDS (Assistant Director), Descendants Jr. (Stage Crew), and Frozen Jr. (Assistant Director, stage Crew). Kayla has also taught classes throughout the school year at Mel's School of Music and Theater.

# Cast & Production Biographies



**AUSTIN MARSHALL**, a Junior from Buffalo, N.Y., is pursuing a Theatre Performance major with a minor in Dance. NU credits: TYA Musical of Musicals the Musical (Big Willy and others), NURT 2022, Cabaret (Herman), Jane Austen's Emma (Frank Churchill), Songs for a New World (Man #1), Good Kids (Landon), 2021 Short Play Festival's Drinks Before Flight (Lucas), and Going Viral (Paranoid Humanoid). Outside credits: Nardin Academy High School, The Wiz (Tinman), The King and I (The King), Pride and Prejudice (Mr. Collins), The Addams Family (Fester Addams), Pippin (King Charlemagne). At Canisius High School, Little Shop of Horrors (Audrey II). At OFC Creations Theatre, A Chorus Line (Ensemble), Chicago (Ensemble). Offstage Credits: Niagara University Theatre, The Thanksgiving Play (Assistant Stage Manager).



**SEBASTIAN NEWELL (he/him)**, a sophomore from East Aurora, NY, is pursuing a theatre design/production degree with a minor in ASL through the NU Honors Program. Offstage NU Credits: Moving Back Home (ASM), Cabaret (Wardrobe Crew).



**EMILY PALMERCHUCK**, a Senior from St. Thomas, P.A. is pursuing a Theatre Performance Major with minors in Theatre Design/Technology, Dance, and Film. NU credits: Decision Height (Norma Jean Harris), Songs for a New World (Woman), Much Ado About Nothing (Friar Francis), Anton in Show Business ("Stage Hand"). Offstage Credits: The Thanksgiving Play (Stage Manager), Shakespeare's Kings and Queens (Stage Manager). Outside credits: She Loves Me (Amalia), Titanic: The Musical (Alice), Is He Dead? (Madame Caron), Seussical (Mrs. Mayor), Jekyll and Hyde (Ensemble). Emily also works as a draper in the NU Costume Shop.



**JACKIE RENAUD**, a junior, is pursuing a Design and Production Major with a concentration in Technical Direction, and Scenic Painting. Past NU credits: Swing Technician (Cabaret), Props Acquisition (Machinal), Stage Manager (Gorilla, Gorilla, NU Short Plays), Deck Crew (Girl), Scene Shop Crew Spring 22, and Lighting Crew Spring 22. Professional Credits: Assistant Stage Manager (As You Like It, SDP), Build Crew (SDP), Assistant Scenic Designer (Cabaret, Second Generation).

# Players Presents Retrospective

2022: girl.

2021: Independence

2020: Sylvia

2019: Some Girls

2018: Recent Tragic Events

2017: The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-  
in-the-Moon Marigolds

2016: Extremities

2015: Love Song

2014: The Shape of Things

2013: Time Stands Still

2012: The Twilight of the Golds

2011: How I Learned  
to Drive

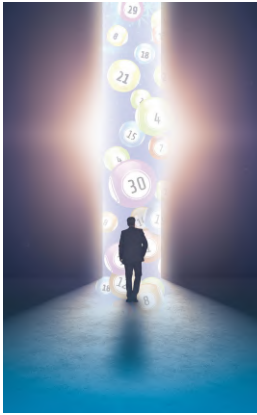
2010: Proof

2009: Fat Pig

2007: Five Women Wearing the Same Dress

2006: An Evening of Culture...

# NU Theatre Invites You to Return For Our Upcoming Shows



Everybody  
March 30th - April 3rd



A Gentleman's Guide to  
Love and Murder  
April 27th - May 7th

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

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

Or contact our box office:

Phone: (716) 286-8685

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

The Friends of Niagara University Theatre, incorporated in 1986,  
help raise awareness and develop support for the theatre  
department and its students. You, too, can join us in our efforts to  
help ensure the future of one of the oldest professional theatre  
training programs in the  
region, and provide invaluable opportunities for future generations  
of theatre artists.

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[theatre.niagara.edu/support](http://theatre.niagara.edu/support) or call 716-286-8483.

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