



**Ilesa Duncan**  
*Producing Artistic Director*

*Presents*

# The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago Young Playwrights Festival

## 2016 Winning Plays

### **OBSESSED**

By Alexandra Obert  
Lincoln Park High School  
Teacher: Ahoo Kosari  
Directed by Juan Ramirez

### **EYE SEE ALL**

By Ricardo Salgado  
Lane Tech College Prep  
Teacher: Kirsten Hanson  
Directed by Warner Crocker

### **GUARDING THE PRINCESS**

By Elyssa Saldana  
Whitney Young Magnet High School  
Teacher: Elizabeth Graf  
Directed by Ilesa Duncan

### **RACE TO THE FINISH**

By Sejahari Sautler-Villegas  
Kenwood Academy  
Teacher: Nina Williams  
Directed by Ilesa Duncan

Scenic Design  
*Marissa Gil*

Costume Design  
*Amy Chmeilewski*

Technical Director  
*Caswell James*

Lighting Design  
*Josh Wroblewski*

Props Design  
*Vanessa Thomas/Ellie Terrell*

Master Electrician  
*Carley Walker*

Sound & Projection Design  
*Sound Resolution*

Production Manager  
*Kelly Butler*



Gaylord & Dorothy  
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**Press Opening Monday, January 8, 2017**

Pegasus Theatre Chicago's Education programs are generously supported by: The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, Polk Bros. Foundation, The Seabury Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Illinois Arts Council. Photographing, videotaping or other audio/visual recording of this production is strictly prohibited.  
Produced in Association with/as Resident Theatre at Chicago Dramatists

## CAST

### ***Obsessed***

Jeremy .....	Ryan Smetana
Jeremy's Subconscious.....	Alex Ireys
Violet.....	Nicole Laurenzi
Marcus.....	Alex Brick
Girl.....	Quenna Barrett

### ***Guarding The Princess***

Princess Chattie.....	Christina Ward
Eadweard.....	Quenna Barrett
Knights 1/6.....	Ryan Smetana
Knights 2/5.....	Alex Ireys
Knights 3/8.....	Kai Ealy
Knights 4/7.....	Nicole Laurenzi
Sam.....	Alex Brick

### ***Eye See All***

Jessica.....	Christina Ward
Ryan.....	Kai Ealy
Elron.....	Alex Brick
Brother Margaret.....	Nicole Laurenzi
Brother Manson.....	Alex Ireys
Brother Walt.....	Ryan Smetana
Oculus.....	Quenna Barrett

### ***RACE to the Finish***

Kile Kobe King.....	Alex Brick
Laquan.....	Kai Ealy
Rekia (& Ann).....	Quenna Barrett
Uncle Samsung/Police.....	Alex Ireys
Donald Trumpet/Police.....	Ryan Smetana
Director/Rachel.....	Nicole Laurenzi
Cameraman.....	Christina Ward

There will be one ten-minute intermission.

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Scenic Design.....	Marissa Gil
Lighting Design.....	Josh Wroblewski
Sound & Projection Design.....	Sound Solutions
Costume Design.....	Amy Chmielewski
Props Design.....	Ellie Terrell & Vanessa Thomas
Production Manager.....	Kelly Butler
Technical Director.....	Caswell James
Master Electrician.....	Carley Walker
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Joe Dolmon



**Alex Brick** (*Ensemble*) Recent credits include *1776* (American Eagle Productions), *The Wizard of OZ* (The Children's Theater of Madison), *The Pillowman* (The Pump

House), and *Fiddler on the Roof* (The Children's Theater of Madison). Alex is a recent Chicago transplant from Madison, WI. He earned his bachelors degree in theater and philosophy from the University of Wisconsin.



**Kai Ealy** (*Ensemble*) Since moving to Chicago, his credits include *Fallen*, an independent film by Mind in Motion Productions, and at ETA *Migration* (BTAA Award

winning production), and *In De Beginnin'* by Oscar Brown, Jr. He attended Alabama State University under the tutelage of Tonea Stewart. Some of his Decatur, AL credits include; *Hamlet*, *Comedy of Errors*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Our Town*.



**Alex Ireys** (*Ensemble*) was last seen in Filament Theater's production of *Van Gogh Cafe* and *Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Portage Park*. He graduated Second

City's Conservatory program in the Summer and received his BFA in Acting from Virginia Commonwealth University.



**Nicole Laurenzi** (*Ensemble*) Credits since arriving from the east coast include Marriott Lincolnshire and Goodman Theatre. She has performed on camera in *Chicago PD*

and various online commercials. Regionally, Nicole's credits include the

Broadway National Tour of *Mamma Mia!* She is also a teaching artist at Chicago Children's Theatre and a composer. Nicole is a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. To listen to her music, visit [Nicolelmusic.com](http://Nicolelmusic.com).



**Quenna Lené Barrett** (*Ensemble*) is a Chicago native whose recent credits include: Theatre Unspeakable's *Moon Shot* and *The American Revolution*, Nikkole Salter's *Lines in the Dust*

at eta Creative Arts Foundation, and as understudy in Kristiana Colon's *Good Friday* at Oracle Productions. New York credits include: *The Vagina Monologues*, *The Wilde Thing*, John Jesurun's *Red House*, and *Cabaret*. Quenna is a member of the Illinois Caucus of Adolescent Health's For Youth Inquiry performance company. She received her BFA in Drama from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and a Masters in Applied Theatre from the University of Southern California.



**Ryan Smetana** (*Ensemble*) Regional credits include: *A Fabulous 50's Christmas* (Towle Theatre) *Pericles*, *The Tempest* (Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival); and *Grease*,

*Jesus Christ Superstar* (Lincoln-Way Summer Stock Theatre). Ryan is a recent graduate from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where he received his BFA in acting.



**Christina Ward** (*Ensemble*) Some of her favorite roles include Olivia in *Twelfth Night*, Elizabeth I in *Mary Stuart* and Emilia in *Othello*. She is a recent graduate of Baylor

University where she received a BFA in Theatre Performance.

**WARNER CROCKER** (Director, *Eye See All*) is pleased to return to Pegasus Theatre and the Young Playwright's Festival, a project he participated in for a number of years before leaving Chicago to serve as the Artistic Director of Wayside Theatre in Virginia for 15 seasons. He has produced and directed more plays than he can count and is the author of several. He currently works in Chicago and regionally. Recent directing work includes *Boing Boing*, *Barnum*, *The Seven-Percent Solution*, and *The Man Who Murdered Sherlock Holmes*, winner of the Jeff Award for Best Original Work.

**Ilesa DUNCAN** (Director, *Guarding The Princess | RACE to the Finish*) is Pegasus' producing artistic director. Her recent directing includes the Jeff-recommended world premiere of *Rutherford's Travels* (which she co-adapted from the National Book award winning *Middle Passage*), and *For Her As A Piano* (Pegasus). Other credits include *Broken Fences* at 16<sup>th</sup> Street Theater (co-directed with Ann Filmer), *The Nativity* (Congo Square), *Darlin'* (Step Up Productions) and *Jar The Floor* at ETA. Duncan has also worked with Goodman Theatre, Writers Theatre, Victory Gardens Theater, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, Lifeline Theater, Stage Left and Chicago Dramatists, as well as Contemporary American Theatre Company (Ohio), The Alliance Theatre (Atlanta), Arena Stage (Washington DC) and Lincoln Center Theater (New York). Ilesa's creative nonfiction short stories have been published (Columbia College Chicago), and she's written poems and screenplays. Ilesa is a member of the Lincoln Center Theatre Director's Lab, a NEA/TCG Directing Fellow, and an Associate Artist at Chicago Dramatists.

**JUAN RAMIREZ** (Director, *Obsessed*) has been active in Film, Theater and Television for 35 years. As an actor, he has been featured in over 60 productions and was a series regular on ABC's detective drama "Missing Persons." As a director, Juan has written, directed and/or produced over

30 stage productions and 2 full length films. His first film, *ISRAEL IN EXILE*, was a 2002 SLAMDANCE FILM FESTIVAL COMPETITION SELECTION that has been screened in France, England, Spain, Cuba, Mexico and across the U.S. After a brief stretch in Los Angeles, Juan resettled in his native Chicago and became Executive Director of PanAmerica Performance Works, formerly Latino Chicago Theater Company at The Firehouse (a company which he co-founded). He also works with high school students at The Boys and Girls Club in South Lawndale through After School Matters; and the rest of his time developing potential film projects, and helping create community theater spaces.

**MARISSA GIL** (Set Designer) Recent design includes *Suessical* for Big Noise Theater. She currently works as Technical Director at Glenbard South High School, as well as a freelance Scenic Designer and Painter in Chicago. She is also a Stagehand at the Hemmens Cultural Center in Elgin. Most recently she designed and supervised students in building *Fiddler on the Roof* at Glenbard South High School.

**SOUND | RESOLUTIONS** (*Sound/Projection Designers*) is a Chicago based team comprised of two artists, Larry Nance and Deidre Searcy who seek to create audio and video experiences that engage, evoke and elevate.

**JOSH WROBLEWSKI** (*Lighting Designer*) is a freelance lighting designer while also working for the University of Chicago and Freeman Audio Visual. Josh obtained his MFA from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and is excited to work with the talented team at Pegasus Theatre again. Past credits include *Rutherford's Travels* and *29th Young Playwrights Festival* with Pegasus Theatre, *Becky Shaw*, *A Summons from the Tinker...*, and *Foxfinder* (Las Vegas Valley Award-Best Lighting 2015) among many others. Check out his work at [www.jwlightingdesign.com](http://www.jwlightingdesign.com)

**R&D CHOREOGRAPHY (VICTOR BAYONA & RICHARD GILBERT)** (*VIOLENCE DESIGN*) R&D Choreography's Victor Bayona and Rick Gilbert return to Pegasus after designing fights for *Rutherford's Travels*. R&D was founded in 1997 for the purpose of improving the power and effectiveness of Chicago theatre through the art of violence design – choreographing better fights for better shows! R&D has designed violence for over three hundred productions and films, and taught stage combat at universities, colleges, and workshops. They have designed violence for dozens of Chicago theatres, including About Face, Akvavit, ATC, Bailiwick, First Folio, Griffin, Lifeline, Oak Park Festival, The Paramount, Piven, Steep, Theatre At The Center, Theo Ubique, Two Pence, and Vitalist.

**ROSS MATSUDA** (Assistant Director) Previous directing credits include *Tweaked* by Paul Shoulberg and *Talk Radio* by Eric Bogosian for the State Theatre of Chicago, along with assistant directing credits with Shakespeare Santa Cruz (*King Lear*) and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (*The Clay Cart & Welcome Home*, Jenny Sutter).

**KELLY BUTLER** (*Production Manager*) is a Chicago-based production and events manager. In addition to the *30th Young Playwrights Festival*, recent credits include *The Mars Assignment* (Collaboraction), *Cat in Heat* (Nothing Special Productions) and *Celestial Light Act I & II: Sun and Moon* (Samantha Rausch) which debuted at Artscape 2016. In addition, Kelly has also worked in a variety of capacities with NewMoon Chicago, Chicago Humanities Festival, Redmoon, Step Up Productions, American Theater Company, and more.

## PAGE-TO-STAGE

PEGASUS THEATRE CHICAGO's 2016-17 season is an intimate look at the development of new work. Readings, open rehearsals and special events demonstrate how new work moves through 'in process' to production. By making the journey public, we hope to develop a more sustainable infrastructure for our theatre. This process may seem to be an endless cycle of readings-feedback-revisions follows. But we conduct Readings, open rehearsals and creative process events to demonstrate commitment to new work, and page to stage adaptations. We are on a quest to innovate ways to seed it, create it and produce it; with engaged communities and audiences. Rarely does the team of playwrights, adapters, designers and audiences sit in the room working together in the workshop process. We were delighted to have that with Dr. Charles Johnson with us during the Spring of 2016; and with our teen writers in the Summer of 2016. Our dramaturgy is richer for every opportunity to engage in discussions with the authors and each other.

Ilesa Duncan, Producing Artistic Director

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 30TH ANNUAL YPF FINALISTS AND HONORABLE MENTIONS

### FINALISTS:

**Eve Doyle**

*Justice*

Lane Tech College Prep  
Teacher: Molly Meacham

**Meghaen Mleczek**

*Fade*

Whitney Young Magnet High School  
Teacher: Elizabeth Graf

**Marissa Olavarria**

*Exit Denied*

Lane Tech College Prep  
Teacher: Molly Meacham

**Je'Quan Sables-Irving**

*No Hero Lives*

Whitney Young Magnet High School  
Teacher: Elizabeth Graf

**Nigel Telman**

*The Lesson*

University of Chicago Lab School  
Teacher: Rachel Nielsen

**Liliana Tirado**

*SHUD/TTER*

Lane Tech College Prep  
Teacher: Molly Meacham

### HONORABLE MENTIONS:

**Daniella Cruz**

*Not a Romantic Comedy*

John Hancock College Prep  
Teacher: Lisa Ehrlich-Menard

**Blake Cushman**

*The Darkness Within*

Lincoln Park High School  
Teacher: Barton Hanson

**Sam Farrell**

*Thin Walls*

Taft High School  
Teacher: Adrienne Carmona

**Agrim Handa**

*Premonition*

Lane Tech College Prep  
Teacher: Molly Meacham

**Jessica Hannsberry**

*The New Girl*

King College Prep  
Teacher: Krista Wachob

**Aida Huskic**

*The Fight for Fight*

Lincoln Park High School  
Teacher: Ahoo Kosari

**Max Mitchell**

*Friday Night Texts*

Lane Tech College Prep  
Teacher: Kirsten Hanson

**Taylor Moore**

*Blessing in the Storm*

Wendell Phillips High School  
Teacher: Sarah Mostad

**Niara Richards**

*Spirit and Blood*

Providence St. Mel School  
Teacher: Carolyn Stopka

**Brianna Vargas**

*It's Better to Ask Forgiveness*

Whitney Young Magnet High School  
Teacher: Elizabeth Graf

## ABOUT US

PEGASUS THEATRE CHICAGO's mission is to produce boldly imaginative theatre, champion new and authentic voices and illuminate the human journey.

### Our Core Values:

- **Community Engagement** - We build community through respect, honesty and trust, ensuring connection and accessibility for all.
- **Social Relevance** - We reflect social issues through creative and fearless storytelling.
- **Audacious Boldness** - We reserve the right to rock the boat in a purposeful and imaginative way.
- **Adventure** - We will explore the new, the extraordinary, or the unusual to give our audiences an exciting experience.
- **Excellence** - We choose important stories to tell, and with great attention to our theatrical artistry, create memorable experiences for our artists and our supporters.

The founding company was created in 1978, growing out of original student writings performed by both faculty and students in the City Colleges. From 1984-2010, the theatre was in residence at the O'Rourke Center for the Performing Arts at Truman College in the heart of Uptown. Pegasus then became theatre-in-residence at the Hull House's Leo Lerner Theater on Beacon Street from 2011-2013, which has since been demolished. The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs recognized the Young Playwrights Festival with a special cash award for "Outstanding contribution to the arts and outreach efforts to expand the accessibility of high quality arts experiences." Pegasus' has received 79 Joseph Jefferson Non-Equity Awards and countless nominations. Currently in residence at Chicago Dramatists in West Town, the new Pegasus Theatre Chicago is *Where Epic Stories Take Flight*.

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## SPECIAL THANKS

*Pegasus Board of Directors, Chicago Dramatists, David Barr III, Rachel DuBose, Reginald Edmund, Topher McCullogh, The Blueprint Shoppe, Chicago Public School Educators, students and administration*