



David Zak
Executive Director

Nelson Rodriguez
Artistic Director

Presents the World Premiere of

FOR THE LOVE OF (OR, THE ROLLER DERBY PLAY)

By Gina Femia

Directed by Rachel Edwards Harvith

Set Design: Elyse Balogh

Costume Design: Uriel Gómez

Light Design: G. "Max" Maxin IV

Sound Design: Heath Hays

Props Design: Melanie Vitaterna

Assistant Director: Denise Yvette Serna

Choreography Assistant / Movement Consultant: Christopher Young

Technical Director: Manuel Ortiz

Production Manager: Iris Sowlat

Stage Manager: Jenn Thompson

Assistant Stage Manager: Quinn Erb

Featuring

Savannah Cannistraro, Alex Dauphin, Lauren Goode,
Erica Hernandez, Emily Marso, Amanda Raquel Martinez,
Deanna Reed-Foster, Tricia Rogers, Kenzie Seibert

Understudies:

Becca Browne, Kim Egan, Izis Mollinedo, Victoria Montalbano, Shannon Leigh Webber

Opening March 20, 2017
The Buena, Pride Arts Center, 4147 N. Broadway

CHARACTER LIST

Alex Dauphin	Joy Ride
Kenzie Seibert	Michelle
Erica Hernandez	Lizzie Lightning
Lauren Goode	Andrea the Vagiant
Amanda Raquel Martinez	Diaz de los Muertos
Tricia Rogers	Hot Flash
Emily Marso	Squeaky Mouse
Savannah Cannistraro	Prosecute-Her
Deanna Reed-Foster	Anna-Stecia

FOR THE LOVE OF is performed with one 15 minute intermission.

Becca Browne	Understudy Joy Ride / Anna-Stecia
Kim Egan	Understudy Prosecute-Her
Izis Mollinedo	Understudy Lizzie Lightning / Diaz de los Muertos
Victoria Montalbano	Understudy Hot Flash / Andrea the Vagiant
Shannon Leigh Webber	Understudy Michelle / Squeaky Mouse

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

We've all seen coming-of-age stories—rebellng from the parents, experiencing the ecstacy of first love, learning to stand out from the crowd. I like to think of this as a coming-into-yourself story. It's not about firsts, it's about the courage to reboot. Daring to challenge your own presumptions and define your life around what gives you joy.

Every day we see someone who causes us to think, "That person dances to the beat of their own drum." When was the last time you paid attention to what makes *you* feel most alive, honored the little voice inside that just wants to let go and go puddle kersplunking?

This one goes out to the dreamer in all of us. Because it's never too late—or too early—to follow your heart. The timing is always just right.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Becca Browne (u/s Joy Ride / Anna-Stecia) is a graduate of Loyola University of Chicago and is thrilled to be a part of this incredible project! Becca writes

and performs for *The National American Presents: The Sipping Hour*, a podcast variety show. Her Chicago performing credits include *The Indie Boots Theatre Festival: The Ava Plays*, and understudy for *Direct from Death Row The Scottsboro Boys* (Jeff Nominated) at Raven Theatre. Other

credits include *From the Mississippi Delta* and *The House of Bernarda Alba* (Loyola). She has a supporting role in the independent film, *Torn City*. Thank you to the cast and crew and to my amazing friends and family!



Savannah Cannistraro (Prosecute-Her) will graduate this spring from DePaul University with a B.A. in Cinematic Arts. She is thrilled to return to the stage after

several years being behind the camera, where she exercised her passion for directing. Savannah's recent directorial works have premiered in festivals including the International Film Festival for Cinematic Arts (Los Angeles) as well as the 40th Cleveland International Film Festival. She values these experiences, as they have allowed her to more deeply understand the important relationship between actor and director. Savannah would like to express her deepest gratitude to the Pride Films & Plays family for welcoming her.



Alex Dauphin (Joy Ride) is thrilled to work with Pride Films & Plays again after recent performances in LezPlay Festival and LezFest. Other Chicago

credits include *Hope Wanted* (The (Beat) Theatre Collective), *Peacebook Festival* and *Sketchbook Festival* (Collaboraction Theatre), *RIDE* (Under the Rug Theatre), *The Difference* (Piccolo Theatre), *Hellcab* (Profiles Theatre), *It Sounds Like You Have an Opinion, Knife Radio Machine*, and *That Sunday Show* (The Second City). Alex also plays Nurse Stacy Finn on Chicago Med. Alex is a graduate of Princeton University and is represented by Shirley Hamilton. For upcoming projects, visit www.alexdauphin.com.



Kim Egan (u/s Prosecute-Her) is excited to make her debut with Pride Films and Plays. She is new to Chicago and was recently seen in *Twelfth*

Night (Midsommer Flight). Favorite Minnesota productions include *Into the Woods* (Mu Performing Arts), *Seven* (Chain Reaction Theatre Project), and *Strike-Slip* (nimbus theatre). Thanks to Jeff for his support.



Lauren Goode (Andrea the Vagiant) has shoulder-shimmy levels of joy for getting to team up with Pride Films & Plays. Most recently she was seen as Mary in

Piccolo Theatre's production of *The Memory of Water*. She has enjoyed performing on the stages of Piccolo, Steep, Emerald City, AWT, and Inconceivable Theatre companies. Lauren has also been the voice of numerous cartoons, commercials, and instructional videos on TV, Radio, and the Web. She is represented by Lori Lins, and you can find her full resume and demo at www.goodevoice.com.



Erica Hernandez (Lizzie Lightning) is a member of Chicago's Spanish speaking Aguijón Theater Company where credits include *La Chunga*, *Querido Voyeur*,

Antigona, as well as the bilingual production of *Soldaderas* at the company's home theatre here in Chicago, and performances for the Goodman Theatre's Latino Theatre Festival and the Festival de Mujeres en Escena por la Paz in Bogotá, Colombia. Other regional & favorite credits include *Microcrisis* with Next Act Theatre in Milwaukee, WI, *Bombs, Babes and Bingowith* Mortar Theatre Company, *Corazon de Manzana* at the DCA Theatre, and the Chicago premiere of *No Roosters in the Desert*. Erica can also be seen in the feature films *One Night Stand* and the upcoming *En Algun Lugar* (*A Place To Be*).



Emily Marso (Squeaky Mouse) is making her Pride Films & Plays debut. Recent credits include *Men on Boats* (u/s, American Theater Company), and *Good for*

Otto (u/s) and *The Grapes of Wrath* (The Gift Theatre). An actor and teaching artist, she toured nationally for a year as a company member with Child's Play Touring Theatre and is a company member with Barrel of Monkeys. Chicago credits include work with Chicago Dramatists, Jackalope Theatre, Prologue Theatre Company, and Living Room Playmakers, among others. Film credits include *Message Received* and *The Mortician*. Television credits include *Chicago Fire* (NBC). Emily graduated with a BA degree in Theatre, Political Science, and Chinese from Northwestern University.



Amanda Raquel Martinez (Diaz de los Muertos) makes her Pride Films and Plays debut! Recently, she starred in *Cinderella at the Theater of Potatoes* with the Hypocrites, and performed in the company's *Pirates of Penzance* and *The Mikado* running in rep at Olney Theatre Center. Other Chicago credits include: *Even Longer and Farther Away* (The New Colony), *Love, Loss and What I Wore* (First Folio), *Big Lake*, *Big City* (Lookingglass Theatre Company), *El Stories: The Holiday Train* (Waltzing Mechanics), *At the Center* (The Agency Theater Collective), and *Sketchbook Festival XIV and XV* (Collaboraction). Welcome to the derby, friends!



Izis Mollinedo (u/s Lizzie Lighting / Diaz de los Muertos) is a Chicago native with a BFA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is thrilled to be working with Pride Films and Plays for the first time. In the past she has worked with The Hypocrites, Babes with Blades, The Unrehearsed Shakespeare Theatre Company, E.D.G.E. Theatre, and Signal Ensemble Theatre.



Victoria Montalbano (u/s Hot Flash / Andrea the Vagiant) has been an actress and teaching artist in Chicago for ten years. Favorite roles include *Twelfth Night* (Olivia), *The Comedy of Errors* (Dromio of Syracuse), *Arms and the Man* (Louka) and *Cinderella* (Stepmother). She's funny! Follow her on twitter @VictoriaNotViky and visit her website, www.victorianotvicky.com.



Deanna Reed-Foster (Anna-Stecia) is an Emmy Award winning actress who has been performing on stage and on screen for many years. Deanna can be seen in the newly released movie "Southside With You" and in a recurring role on NBC's "Chicago Fire". Deanna just finished a feature film with the Oscar nominated director, Richard Linklater entitled "Last Flag Flying" and will also be seen on NBC's Chicago PD this season. In 2008 she was blessed to win a Midwest Emmy Award for her work in "Fresh From Julianne's Garden; A Legacy In Bronze" with CANTV. She has performed in Chicago and abroad with various theater companies and productions. Such as; The Colored Museum (Pulse Theater Chicago), *Even Longer and Farther Away* (The New Colony), *Marvin's Room* (Shattered Globe), *All Shook Up* (Theater At The Center), *Heatwave* (Steppenwolf Garage Rep), *Mill Fire* (Shattered Globe), *Marvelous Marvellettes* (Black Ensemble Theater) and *Fabulation* (Eclipse Theater). Deanna credits all of her gifts and talents to her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ who has so freely given them to her. She also thanks her husband Earl for his unwavering support.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES CONT.



Tricia Rogers (Hot Flash) is thrilled to be making her first appearance with Pride Films & Plays *especially* under the direction of Rachel Edwards

Harvith. Recent credits include Level 11 Theatre, Genesis Theatrical Productions and Dandelion Theatre. She has also worked with Tympanic Theatre; The Side Project; Chemically Imbalanced Comedy; Stage Left Theatre; Collaboraction Theatre; The Annoyance Theater and a few others. Her love to Joseph.



Kenzie Seibert (Michelle) is from Chicagoland, and trained at the iO Comedy and The Second City Conservatory. As well

as performing on the interwebs for The Onion, ClickHole, and XVP Comedy, you can see her on Upworthy and the

Huffington Post, performing her piece "Pinkwashing for a Cure", where she brings a satirical light to the injustice behind booby health. You can see her storytelling at The iO Theater, The Annoyance Theater, and The Second City. She also performs drag as The Duchess at Berlin Drag Club, She co-created and co-hosts the variety show, Gender Is A Drag, every month at the iO Comedy Theater. She is a very proud company member at Pride Films and Plays, and is represented by BMG Talent. www.kenzieseibert.com



Shannon Leigh Webber (u/s Michelle / Squeaky Mouse) is thrilled to once again work with PFP! Shannon is an Artistic Associate with Random Acts;

recent credits include, *Resolution (PFP)*, *Ladies Night of the Living Dead* (Random Acts), *Hell's Kitchen* (Arc Theatre), *Crimes of the Heart* (Step Up). "Theatre is a mirror, a sharp reflection of society." -Yasmina Reza

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Elyse Balogh (Scenic Designer) is a graduate from DePaul University's Theatre School, with a BFA in Scenic Design. Recently, she has designed *Godspell*, *Macbeth* (St. Patrick's High), *Henry V* (Babes with Blades), *Death of a Salesman*, *Turtle*, *The Seedbed* (Redtwist), *Jettison* (@ Gorilla Tango), *Dying City* (The Comrades), *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (Mudlark), and *An Almanac for Farmers and Lovers in Mexico* (The Jades). Recent paint charges include *Unseen*, *A Life Extraordinary*, *Grapes of Wrath* (The Gift), and *The Full Monty* (Peninsula Players). Upcoming designs: *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Redtwist), *Tight End* (20% Theatre). www.elysebalogh.com

Quinn Erb (Assistant Stage Manager / Production Intern) is excited to be joining

Pride Films & Plays as the Assistant Stage Manager and Production Intern for *For The Love Of...!* They are a junior at The Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University pursuing a degree in Stage Management. They have recently interned for The Paramount Theatre on *Sweeney Todd*, been a production assistant for *Molly's Hammer* and *The Winslow Boy* at The Repertory Theatre of Saint Louis, and are excited to see what other experiences the future has in store!

Gina Femia's (Playwright) plays have been developed/presented at The Great Plains Theatre Conference, Ensemble Studio Theatre, New Georges, Dixon Place, Pipeline Theatre Company, The Brick, and New York Madness. Her short

plays have been presented as a part of more than 30 festivals locally, nationally and internationally. She is a member of EST/Youngblood, Lather, Rinse, Repeat Collective, a New Georges Affiliated Artist, a New York Madness Company Member and is currently Playwright-in-Residence with March Forth Productions. She has received residencies with NTI at the O'Neill, SPACE on Ryder Farm, Fresh Ground Pepper and Grin City Collective and has been nominated for the Kilroys List.

Rachel Edwards Harvith (Director) has worked with such Chicago-area companies as Chicago Dramatists (former Associate Artistic Director), Mortar Theatre (founding company member), Kokandy Productions, American Theatre Company, American Blues Theatre, Stage Left, Teatro Luna, Raven Theatre, Pegasus Theatre Chicago, Babes with Blades, Bailiwick Chicago, and Livingroom Playmakers. Representative directing credits include the Jeff-nominated premieres of *Beautiful Autistic* and *The Mecca Tales* (Chicago Dramatists); *180 Degree Rule* (Babes with Blades), which was named the #5 Chicago production of 2016 by *Theatre by the Numbers*; and *Assassins* (Kokandy Productions), which was named the #5 Chicago production of 2014 by *Time Out Chicago*, and received 5 Jeff nominations, including best direction of a musical. Education: BA in Theatre, Grinnell College; MFA in Directing, University of Iowa

Heath Hays (Sound Designer) is a Co-Artistic Director of Strawdog theatre, where he is an ensemble member and has been involved in 14 Productions over the last 3 Years. Heath has designed for many companies including Chicago Dramatists, the Hypocrites, Mortar Theatre, BSTC, New Colony, and many more. Heath is stoked to be working with PFP for the first time on FtLO.

Uriel Gómez (Costume Design) is ecstatic to be working on his second production with Pride Films & Plays. Recent design

credits include the Chicago premieres of *The Wolf At The End Of The Block*, *Parachute Men*, *In the Time of the Butterflies*, *My Mañana Comes* (Teatro Vista); *The Black Slot*, *The Women of Lockerbie*, *The Lyons* (Aston Rep); *Mary Kate Olsen is in Love* (The Comrades); and *Men on the Verge of a Hispanic Breakdown* (Pride Films & Plays). He would like to thank Matt; as well as his friends, and family for all their support. For more information and designs please visit ugomez.com

G. "Max" Maxin IV (Lighting Design) is thrilled to join Pride for their premier season in their new home! Max is a Full-time Instructor at Northeastern Illinois University & one of the co-founders of Another Door Theatre Project. He holds an MFA from Michigan State University in Theatrical Production Design & a BA from Ashland University in the same. Favorite credits include *Dog Sees God*, *Little Women*, *Cabaret*, *Bare* (Another Door); *Urinetown*, *Next to Normal*, (BoHo); *Priscilla*, *Bite!*, *Angry Fags*, *Design for Living* (Pride); *First Date* (Royal George); *From These Fatal Loins* (Ruckus); *180 Degree Rule* (Babes With Blades). www.ivMaxin.com is where you can find him!

Manuel Ortiz (Technical Director) is a Chicago native actor, designer and photographer. He received his BFA in Acting at DePaul University and is currently one of the founding members and technical director for Cult Camp Productions. He is the founder of The Sonnet Projects and is currently designing/adapting Shakespeare's sonnets into new ensemble based shows. When he is not producing and performing theater you can find him at home joyfully playing with all 18 of his animal friends.

Denise Yvette Serna (Assistant Director) is delighted to collaborate with PFP! Her credits include *Earthquakes in London* (Steep Theatre Company) *After Orlando* (Pride Films and Plays); *(the)forget_me\knot* (inappropriate theatre company); *La*

Chingada (inappropriate theatre company); *Much Ado About Nothing* (The Shaw Theatre); *Om Swastyastu from London - The Wailing Woman* (Institut Seni Indonesia Denpasar); and *Heart's Core* (Refugee Women's Theatre Programme). Denise holds an MFA in Theatre Directing from London's East 15 Acting School. She is an alumna of Steppenwolf Theatre Company's Multicultural Fellowship. She serves as a member of artEquity's 2016 cohort, a diverse cadre of facilitators who support equity-based initiatives nation-wide.

Iris Sowlat (Production Manager) is thrilled to return to PFP after assistant-directing *Raggedy And* and directing a reading of *Watch Me Burn* for LezPlay. Iris also produced and directed *After Orlando* with the Pride Arts Center and NoPassport Theatre Alliance. Iris has directed for the Chicago Fringe Festival, Broken Nose Theatre's Bechdel Fest, and 20% Theatre's "Snapshots" & "Darkroom" festivals. Assistant-directing credits include *The Firestorm* (Stage Left) and *Human Terrain* (Broken Nose). A big thank-you to my family for your enduring support.

Jenn M. Thompson (Stage Manager) is proud to be making her Pride Film and Plays debut! Previous credits include: The Ten Festival with the Gift Theatre, *It's a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play*, Metropolis Performing Arts Center, and *'Ring of Fire'*, Metropolis Performing Arts Center.

Newly arrived in the city, Jenn resides in Edgewater with her cat Stanley. Originally from Michigan Jenn is an alumni of Western Michigan University's Theatre department. Thanks to her ASM Quinn, and the wonderful cast for making this a great experience.

Melanie Vitaterna (Props Designer) is thrilled to be working with PFP again. She was last seen in *BITE: A Pucking Queer Cabaret* this summer. Some favorite designs include *Company*, *The 39 Steps*, *Arcadia*, *The Lilliput Troupe* (Northwestern University), and *Charred* (the Frontier). Many thanks to Quinn, Mom & Dad, and her ancient car for surviving this process.

Christopher Young (Choreography Assistant/Movement Consultant) is an actor, dancer, choreographer, and teaching artist. He is also an ensemble member with PFP. He is ecstatic to work with this inspiring team of artists. Choreography credits include: *Bite* (PFP), *Seussical* (Windy City Music Theatre), *Silence!* (Corn Productions), *The Boy From Oz* (assistant choreographer;PFP); Chicago performance credits include: *Funny Girl* (MadKap), *Miracle!* (Hell in a Handbag), *Sleeping Beauty* (Chicago Kids Company), *Exit the Queen* (Ruckus), *Musical of the Living Dead* (Cowardly Scarecrow), *Once Upon a Mattress* (Windy City Music Theatre), *Zombie Prom* (Cult Camp).

Don't miss these exciting upcoming PFP events!

His & His III – April 11

Nominee Night – May 23

SheFest – June 5

Queer Bits Film Festival – June 17

The Nance – June 22-July 23

Simply Sensational – November 6

PRIDE FILMS AND PLAYS ARTISTIC TEAM

Executive Director, David Zak
Artistic Director, Nelson Rodriguez

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John Nasca, Patrick Rybarczyk, Derek Van Barham,
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COMPANY MEMBERS

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Kenzie Seibert, Kevin Webb, Christopher Young

LezPlay Literary Coordinator, Allison Franklin

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Dennis Shinnors, George Smart, Mary Steelsmith, Ethan Steers, Enrique Urueta,
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Kevin Hanna, Dan Pal, Nelson Rodriguez

LEZPLAY INQBATER

Debrah Goodman, Rusty Hernandez, Diana Raiselis,
Kenzie Seibert, Amber Snyder, Iris Sowlat, Julia Rufo

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SPECIAL THANKS

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