

CARDINAL STRITCH UNIVERSITY
PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS

THE LAST CYCLIST

Reconstructed and reimagined by
Naomi Patz

Based on a cabaret written in the Terezín Ghetto in 1944 by
Karel Švenk

As remembered and revised in Prague in 1961 by
Jana Šedová and her coauthor **Darek Vostřel**

Directed by **Mark Boergers**

Cardinal Stritch University Performing Arts presents *The Last Cyclist* in collaboration with the Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center (HERC) and the Harry and Rose Samson Family JCC, featuring professional actors and theater artists working alongside Stritch students.

Generously sponsored by:
Nancy & Jim Barnett
Ettinger Family Foundation

The incidental music composed by Stephen Feigenbaum for Naomi Patz's play, *The Last Cyclist*, was recorded under the auspices of the Terezín Music Foundation by Boston Symphony Orchestra members Si-Jing Huang, violin; Sati Knudsen, cello; and Thomas Martin, clarinet. Won-Hee An, piano, also performs with the Boston Symphony. Jim Gwin, percussion, is a member of the Boston Pops. Mark Ludwig, a violist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, served as conductor; he is the director of the Terezín Music Foundation.

WITH

JIRI, HITLER, RAT..... Randall T. Anderson
ELENA, MA'AM..... Marcee Doherty-Elst
MARIANNA, HEAD PHYSICIAN, LUNATIC 3..... Laura Ellingen
FRANTA, MRS. MANICKOVA, RICH..... Leslie Fitzwater
TOMAS, CELERY, YOUNG MAN, OTHER CYCLIST..... Andres Hernandez
OTA, OPPORTUNIST..... Monty Kane
SVENK, ABELES..... Joel Kopischke
ZUSANA, LUNATIC 2..... Maggie Marks
JANA, MANICKA..... Laura Monagle
LEO, LUNATIC 1..... Nick Narcisi
EVA, BIG SHOT, LUNATIC 4..... Amanda Richards
PAVEL, RED, SWEEP, MR. HIPPO..... Donnie Williams

SCENIC DESIGN
GREG KAYE

COSTUME DESIGN
KRISTINA VAN SLYKE

SOUND DESIGN
SARAH BURGER

LIGHTING DESIGN
ANDREW SCHMITZ

Dress rehearsal in the attic theater in Terezín

FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

The inmates who attended the open rehearsals of *The Last Cyclist* in Terezin laughed. The play was funny and they craved entertainment to forget their hunger and exhaustion, their worries about family and friends, and their fear of the unknown that awaited them. And they laughed because they understood the not-so-sly, subversive allusion that made the Nazis into lunatic escapees from an asylum.

Today's audiences are meant to laugh too. But ours is uncomfortable laughter. We realize that the play is not a joke but a brave protest against totalitarianism; and we know the fate of the cast and the rest of the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust. And we cannot help but see its relevance to the escalation of bigotry in our own country and around the world.

I hope *The Last Cyclist* makes clear that is the personal responsibility of every human being to fight intolerance, prejudice, bullying and racism.

Naomi Patz

ABOUT THE PLAY

The Last Cyclist was born of the creative genius of a young man named Karel Svenk who was imprisoned by the Nazis in the Terezín ghetto. To that end, this show is not *about* the Holocaust so much as it is *from* the Holocaust. The setting, therefore, is of immense importance to this play. Terezín (or Theresienstadt as the Germans called it) was a fully-functioning concentration camp that witnessed the same brutality and inhumanity that has come to occupy our morbid imagination about the Holocaust. But it also served as a propaganda set for the Nazis who wished to demonstrate to the Red Cross and other international organizations that they were dealing with the so-called 'Jewish Problem' in a 'humane' manner. The original cabaret was the product of an imprisoned Jewish political and social elite who were permitted by their captors to create concerts, cabarets and operas which then provided the façade of happiness the Nazis wished to project. To make enough space for propaganda film crews to capture the flourishes of musicians, singers and actors, and to reduce the obvious, dreadful overcrowding, thousands of people were sent to Auschwitz. This was the horrifying reality of the original troupe that created *The Last Cyclist*. Like many of their brave counterparts mired in the hell of the Holocaust, these creative minds used any sliver of opportunity generated by their absurd surroundings to resist in their own way; in the case of *The Last Cyclist*, by generating scathing and sometimes humorous commentary about their own persecution.

Dan Haumschild
Dramaturg, Holocaust Education Fellow with HERC
and Cardinal Stritch University

CAMERAS AND RECORDING DEVICES

The use of cameras or sound recorders are strictly prohibited.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please turn off all cellular phones, beepers, and alarm watches before the show begins.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

"Every joke is a tiny revolution" – George Orwell, 1945

WHO'S WHO



Naomi
Patz



Mark Boergers
Director



Sarah
Acker



Sarah
Burger



Marcee
Doherty-Elst



Laura
Ellingen



Leslie
Fitzwater



Lucy
Hartnell



Andres
Hernandez



Monty
Kane



Greg
Kaye



Joel
Kopischke



Maggie
Marks



Laura
Monagle



Nick
Narcisi



Amanda
Richards



Andrew
Schmitz



Braydon
Shewczyk



Kristina
Van Slyke



Donnie
Williams

BIOGRAPHIES

NAOMI PATZ (*Playwright*) Naomi's play, *The Last Cyclist*, soon to be a film, has been performed since 2009 around the country and in Mexico City. The play is on the syllabus of courses in genocide and the performing arts at the University of Kansas, Tufts and several other universities. Editor of *Married to the Rabbi*, a forthcoming volume of essays by the spouses of retired Reform rabbis (of which Naomi is one), she has written many books and essays on Jewish themes, including monographs on two pre-World War II Czech Jewish communities, a Shabbat prayer book called *Siddur Netivot Sholom*, and *Explaining Reform Judaism*, which she coauthored with Dr. Eugene Borowitz, and an acclaimed five-year project known as the Judaica Series, for the United Jewish Appeal Young Leadership Cabinet. Patz has created numerous one-act plays and other scripts and parodies on Jewish themes, and a cantata called "A Word to the Wise," with music by Cantor Stephen Richards. With her husband, she translated from Hebrew the fantasy drama *The Third Cry* by Yaakov Cahan. Her career includes eight years as director of the North American Jewish Forum, which matched key young leaders in the United States (including from Milwaukee) and Canada with their counterparts in Israel, and eight years as national director of Partnership 2000 (now Partners Together), a project linking American Jewish communities such as ours with their Israeli counterparts. Patz holds a BA in English literature from Barnard College, an MA in English from Old Dominion University, and an

MA in Jewish education from Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, which awarded her an honorary doctorate.

MARK BOERGERS (*Director*) Mark is excited and inspired to be in his fifth year as the Artistic Director of the theater program at Cardinal Stritch as well as Assistant Professor of Theater and Co-Chair of Performing Arts. He is proud to work with such an amazing team of artists on this ambitious endeavor. Mark is also the Artistic Director of The Arc Theatre in Chicago and the co-founder of Shakespeare on the Ridge in Evanston, IL. He also is a freelance casting associate at Paskal-Rudnicke Casting in Chicago. He holds his MFA in Acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University and his Bachelors in Business and Theater from Marquette University. Previous directing credits include *a Midsummer Night's Dream* for Shakespeare@Large, *Bachelorette* for Milwaukee's Theater Red, *Top Girls*, *Steel Magnolias*, and *Oedipus Rex* for The Arc Theatre, *As You Like It*, *Macbeth*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Twelfth Night*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Merry Wives of Windsor* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Shakespeare on the Ridge, *Slow Dance on the Killing Ground* for Athena Theater in Los Angeles as well as *Steel Magnolias*, *Kindertransport*, *Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?*, *Cinderella: Love What You Wish For*, *The Mousetrap*, *The Burials*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Godspell* and *Spring Awakening* at Stritch. Mark's upcoming project is the 10th annual production at Shakespeare on the Ridge in Evanston this summer: "A *Midsummer Night's Dream*". markboergers.com

SARAH ACKER (*Stage Manager*) Sarah fell in love with theater and opera when she was eight years old and tagged along with her sisters for a Shorewood summer rec dept. production of *The Mikado* and was put in the chorus. She ate, slept, and breathed theatre after that. Sarah attended UWM in the Professional Theater Training Program, in Stage Management. Her professional credits include stage managing at Alaska Repertory Theater, Anchorage Opera, Alaska Light Opera, Skylight Music Theater, and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Sarah has toured shows all over the U.S., to the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore. She paused her stage management career for another love: motherhood. She is a proud Mom to Alex, Ben and Emily. Her husband Tom is a member of Milwaukee's Stagehand union, Local 18. Recently, Sarah has stage managed for the Milwaukee Symphony, UWM, In Tandem Theater, and Milwaukee Opera Theater.

RANDALL T. ANDERSON (*Jiri, Hitler, Rat*) Randall has been performing throughout the mid-west for over thirty years. Having studied at Carthage College, he continued his training at the Bristol Renaissance Faire, where he performed for two decades. His recent credits in the Milwaukee area include *Taming of the Shrew* (Off the Wall), *The Secret of Sherlock Holmes* (Milwaukee Entertainment Group), and his original one man show *An Evening With the Bartender* (Alchemist Theatre). Randall is thrilled and honored to work with such talented artists, and bring this show (finally) to life.

SARAH BURGER (*Senior Technical Theater Major*) Sarah is glad to be helping with such an important show as the production team's sound designer. She previously was the assistant stage manager for *Spring Awakening*, costume designer of *W;T*, sound and costume designer for a student run show of *Beyond Therapy*, sound designer for an internship with Arts@Large, the sound and assistant light designer for *Tartuffe*, and finally, sound designer for *The Burials*. She has also acted and does work study in the Theater as well. She hopes you will enjoy this wonderful production of *The Last Cyclist*.

MARCEE DOHERTY-ELST (*Elena, Ma'am*) Marcee is a Milwaukee-based actor and singer whose recent credits include *Nine* (Theater RED), *The Twelve Dates of Christmas* (Next Act Theatre), Angela Iannone's *This Prison Where I Live* (Theater RED), *I'll Eat You Last: A Chat With Sue Mengers* (Untitled Productions/Theater RED) and *A Chorus Line* (Milwaukee Opera Theater/Theater RED), which was seen here on the Kendall stage as part of the Arts@Stritch series! She is the muse and featured model for K'Eric'ters in a Villain Series by Hair and Makeup Artist Eric Welch and Traveling Lemur Productions. Marcee can also be found singing behind an iconic blue feather fan with Kelly Doherty in their hit *Doherty Sisters Cabaret* series with Ryan Cappleman. She is the co-Founder and Producing Director of Theater RED, a company founded in 2013 with her husband and Director/Fight Director Christopher Elst.

LAURA ELLINGEN (*Senior Theater/Communications Major*) From Menomonee Falls, Laura is excited and grateful for the opportunity to perform in hr 14th and final show at Stritch. Her previous Stritch credits include *The Ugly Duckling* (Mommy Duck), *Spring Awakening* (Thea), *W;T* (E.M. Ashford), *Tartuffe* (Dorine), *The Sleeping Beauty* (Queen), *Holiday Musical Spectacular*, *The Burials* (Sophie), *The Mousetrap* (Miss Casewell), *Jack and the Beanstalk* (Cow), *Godspell* (Disciple), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey), *Cinderella* (Ensemble), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia). It has been an incredible four years at Stritch, and Laura is so thankful for the support and encouragement of her professors, mentors, friends, and family. She would like to thank her family and everyone who has supported her in this journey and invites you to enjoy the show!

LESLIE FITZWATER (*Franta, Mrs. Manickova, Rich*) Leslie has been acting and singing professionally for nearly 40 years and has performed with the Milwaukee Symphony, the Racine Symphony, the Florentine Opera, Skylight Opera Theatre, Present Music, and the Alliance Francaise de Milwaukee. Leslie's career spans opera, theater, music theater, cabaret, and mime, and her roles have been

as diverse as Paddington Bear and Carmen. While Leslie has played her share of well-known characters such as Desiree (*A Little Night Music*), Golda (*Fiddler on the Roof*), Agnes (*I Do, I Do*) and Marmie (*Little Women*), she is best known for her portrayal of the French chanteuse, Edith Piaf, in her one woman show, *Edith Piaf Onstage*. Leslie has been a private voice and acting coach, has given seminars on vocal production for the young singer, has taught Voice and Speech at First Stage Theatre Academy, and has been an adjunct voice faculty member at Pius XI High School since 2007.

LUCY HARTNELL (*Junior Education Major/Theater Minor*) Lucy is very thrilled to be an Assistant Stage Manager for the second time! She has performed in eight shows so far at Stritch, but she always loves being a part of the crew when the opportunity arises. Lucy also feels very honored to have been able to work with everyone, and has loved every minute. Hope you enjoy this amazing show!

MONTY KANE (*Senior Theater Major*) Monty has been acting on stage since was five years old. Before attending Stritch, he was involved in Community Theater programs around the Milwaukee area; plays that primarily support the community's benefit (drug awareness, homelessness, etc.). Monty has been in many past shows here at Stritch, but every show is always a new and exciting experience for him. Monty wants to thank everyone that attends or have ever attended a show here as an audience member. He has aspirations to be an actor beyond college, either in theater, film, or both.

GREG KAYE (*Set Designer/Technical Director*) Greg joined the Theater Department in 2017 in the role of Assistant Professor and Technical Director. Greg holds his MFA in Scenic Design from Florida State University, and is a proud alumnus of St. Norbert College. He recently partnered with St. Norbert College of Music Theatre's Summer Stage as Lighting Designer for *Mary Poppins*, and Music Theatre's Next Stage as Lighting Designer for their Wisconsin premier of *School of Rock the Musical*, and Scenic Designer for *Jekyll and Hyde*. Before coming to Stritch, Greg was Assistant

Professor of Scene Design at UW Stevens Point, and before that at the State University of New York – Fredonia. When not running the scene shop, he can also be found working as a scenic, lighting, video and projections designer. None of the fun things Greg gets to do in theater would have been possible without the phenomenal support of his wife Ellen, and sons Charlie and Cooper. Check out Greg's work at GregKayeDesign.com.

JOEL KOPISCHKE (*Svenk, Abeles*) Joel has been performing professionally for over 40 years, singing loudly and having fun on stage, TV, radio, and film. He has performed at Skylight, the Milwaukee Symphony, First Stage, Bard & Bourbon, Milwaukee Opera, and Melody Top. Joel has released two humorous holiday CDs *I Got Yule, Babe* and *Ground Control to Santa Claus*, heard on XM Radio, DirecTV, and Doctor Demento. He created (with Alissa Rhode and Eva Nimmer) the smash hit musical *Dairy Heirs* that premiered at Northern Sky Theatre in 2018 and will return again this summer. In May he will play Prospero in Bard & Bourbon's *The Tempest* and in fall he will appear in *Tomfoolery* at TAP in Sturgeon Bay. Joel is honored to be part of this production.

MAGGIE MARKS (*Zusana, Lunatic 2*) I recently returned to the stage last spring after a 10 year hiatus caring for my young children. I was fortunate to work with Bard and Bourbon, on their production of *Richard III*, where I played Queen Elizabeth and Richmond. I studied at Williamstown Theater Festival, The Saratoga International Theater Institute, British American Drama Academy in Oxford, and several other places. Previous roles and works include Lady Macbeth, Beatrice (*Much Ado About Nothing*), Cymbeline (*Imogen*), Pulp, Venus, Fefu and her Friends, and more. I have worked on and offstage with The Cleveland Public Theater, Milwaukee Shakespeare, Waukesha Civic, Renaissance Theaterworks, and Bard and Bourbon Theater to name a few. Many thanks to the cast and crew of *The Last Cyclist*, and my family and friends for their love and support. A special thanks to my husband Sean for his love and support to make it work, and to my kids Isla and Calvin who encouraged me to get back on stage. Love you!

LAURA MONAGLE (*Jana, Manicka*) is honored to be a part of telling this story with the artists and the community that has come together to remind us all to choose love and tolerance. You may have seen her onstage at The Fireside Theatre, Skylight Music Theatre, Optimist Theatre, the Boulevard, Windfall, Off the Wall and others. Favorite roles include Titania (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Ouisa (*Six Degrees of Separation*), Diana Goodman (*Next to Normal*), Eva Peron (*Evita*), Sally Durant (*Follies*) and Kate the Shrew (*Taming of the Shrew*). "May their memory be for blessing."

NICK NARCISI (*Leo, Lunatic 1*) Nick was last seen in Milwaukee as James Watson in *Photograph 51* with Renaissance Theaterworks. Some of his favorite credits include Stanley in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Tennessee Williams Festival, St. Louis), Ethan in *Sex with Strangers* (Renaissance Theaterworks), M in *Lungs* (Third Avenue Playhouse), and Antipholus of Syracuse in *Comedy of Errors* (Montana Shakespeare in the Parks). He has also worked with the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, the Great River Shakespeare Festival, Theatre Lila, Theatre RED, and Truepenny Theatre. After this, Nick will be headed to the Arkansas Shakespeare Festival to play Banquo in *Macbeth* and Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls*.

AMANDA RICHARDS (*Senior Theater Major*) Amanda is humbled and delighted to be a part of *The Last Cyclist*, her eighth and final show at Stritch. Her past roles include a duckling/swan in *The Ugly Duckling*, Ernst in *Spring Awakening*, Susie in *W;T*, Elmire in *Tartuffe*, Medlar in *The Sleeping Beauty: A Light Within*, Zoe Lucas in *The Burials*, a chorus member in *Holiday Musical Spectacular*, Gayle and Sandrine in UW-Rock County's production of *Almost, Maine* (Irene Ryan nominated performance), and Anna in UW-Rock County's production of *Spring Awakening*. Amanda thanks you for coming and hopes you enjoy the show.

ANDREW SCHMITZ (*Lighting Designer*) Andrew is a freelance lighting and projection designer. He is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the Cardinal Stritch team on *The Last Cyclist*. For recent work and contact information, please visit www.andrewstagedesign.com

BRAYDON SHEWCZYK (*Senior Technical Theater Major*) This is Braydon's final show as a student here at Stritch, and he has loved getting the opportunity to work with professional actors and management outside of the school. He has gotten to work on 14 shows here; including jobs such as stage manager, actor, scenic carpenter, costumer, and even directed a student show at the end of last summer. Braydon wants to thank his mother and father, and family and friends who have come to nearly every show he has worked on whether he was on or off stage and have supported his work in the theater every step of the way.

KRISTINA VAN SLYKE (*Costume Designer*) Kristina is honored to be designing this important work. Past Cardinal Stritch designs include *Godspell*, *Mousetrap* and *Spring Awakening*. She has worked as a Costume Designer in the Milwaukee theater community for 20 years and hopes to continue to be inspired by the telling of stories for many more. Thanks to John, Josephine and Marguerite for inspiring me every day.

DONNIE WILLIAMS (*Senior Theater/ Communications Major*) Donnie is honored to be a part of his 12th and last show here at Stritch. He enjoys long walks on the beach, fried chicken and has mastered the art of procrastination. If you encounter him he can usually be caught with a bag of Takis or a Red Bull; he isn't picky. Donnie's advice to new students coming into Stritch is to never stop growing or learning. Every moment is special. He hopes to figure out what he wants to do with his life by the time graduation comes around, or as he likes to call it, impending doom. Enjoy the show.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Mark Boergers
Casting Director	Marcee Doherty-Elst
Set Design/Technical Director	Greg Kaye
Lighting Design.....	Andrew Schmitz
Sound Design	Sarah Burger
Costume Design	Kristina Van Slyke
HERC Fellow/Dramaturg.....	Dan Haumschild
Costume Director	Jeanne Schrank
Stage Manager	Sarah Acker
Student Stage Managers	Lucy Hartnell, Braydon Shewczyk
Properties Masters	Katrina Hermann, Abi Michalski
Scenic Carpenters.....	Sarah Burger, Jacob Gaeth, Katrina Hermann, Abi Michalski, Andrew Scholz, Braydon Shewczyk
Costume Design Assistant	Dinah Aming'a
Charge Artist	Katrina Hermann
Wardrobe Crew	Esmerelda Calderon, Katrina Hermann
Run Crew	Mariah Flynn, Jack Millane
House Manager.....	Kateri Duncklee
Light Board Operator	Jacob Gaeth
Program Layout.....	Karen Mihopoulos
Promotional Material	Julie Lesch, Michal Magen, Jeff Zimpel
Curators of the Exhibit 'Resilience: Art as a Weapon'	Azucena Reyes, Ethan Sorge

Special thanks to Howard Melton, UWM and Marquette University Theater Departments, Ronna and Larry Pachefsky, and Tim Abler.

CARDINAL STRITCH UNIVERSITY

College of Arts and Sciences, Performing Arts

Kate Meudt	Dean
Dennis King	Chair
Mark Boergers.....	Chair, Artistic Director
Salvatore Terrasi	Director of Instrumental Music
Greg Kaye.....	Technical Director
Jeanne Schrank	Costume Director

The Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center (HERC)

Dr. Shay Pilnik	Executive Director
Brittany Hager McNeely	Director of Education
Judy O'Hara	Administrative Assistant
Kari Altman.....	Coordinator of PR & Outreach

Please visit our companion exhibit of student curated art, Resilience: Art as a Weapon, before and after the performance and during intermission in the Northwestern Mutual Life Art Gallery.

DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

THE LAST CYCLIST
April 5–14, 2019
NANCY KENDALL
THEATER

SPRING CONCERT
SYMPHONY & SONG
May 9, 2019 7:30 pm
NANCY KENDALL
THEATER

FACULTY RECITAL
EVENING OF
CHAMBER MUSIC
May 13, 2019 7:30 pm
NANCY KENDALL
THEATER

More information available at www.stritch.edu/performingarts.