



David Zak,
Executive Director

Artistic Associates

Robert Ollis, Donterrio Johnson, Michael Graham,
Topher Leon, JD Caudill, Larry Todd Cousineau,
Cindy O'Connor

Presents

A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE

Lyrics and Music by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty
Book by Terrence McNally

Director

Donterrio Johnson

Music Director

Robert Ollis

Assistant Director

Allison Petrillo

Scenic Design

Evan Frank

Lighting Design

Mike McShane

Costume Design

Bob Kuhn

Sound Design

Isaac Mandel

Props Design

Matthew Zalinski

Stage Management

Emily Marrasso

Assistant Stage Manager

Finn Taylor

Dialect Coach

Shannon Leigh Webber

Dance Captain

Patrick O'Keefe

Sound Engineer

Justus Wright

Featuring:

Nick Arceo, Ryan Armstrong, Tommy Bullington, Christopher Davis, Cierra Dawn,
Jessica Lauren Fisher, Amanda Giles, Ryan Lanning, Kimberly Lawson, Kevin O'Connell,
Ian Rigg, Orlando Shelly, Sarah Beth Tanner, Tiffany T. Taylor, Thomas Tong

Opening October 14, 2019

A Man of No Importance is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.MTIShows.com

The Broadway, Pride Arts Center | 4139 N Broadway, Chicago, IL 60613
866 811 4111 | www.pridefilmsandplays.com

CAST LIST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Aflie Byrne	Ryan Lanning
Father Kenny	Ian Rigg
Mrs. Grace	Kimberly Lawson
Miss Crowe	Jessica Lauren Fisher
Mrs. Curtin	Amanda Giles
Ernie Lally / Rasher Flynn	Ryan Armstrong
Baldy	Christopher Davis
Lily	Sarah Beth Tanner
Carney	Tommy Bullington
Robbie Fay	Nick Arceo
Mrs. Patrick	Tiffany T. Taylor
Peter	Orlando Shelly
Adele Rice	Ciera Dawn
Sully O'Hara	Thomas Tong
Breton Beret / Oscar Wilde	Kevin O'Connell

UNDERSTUDIES / SWINGS

Father Kenny	Christopher Davis
Robbie Fay	Ryan Armstrong
Lily	Kimberly Lawson
Carney	Thomas Tong
Alfie	Orlando Shelly
Adele	Tiffany T. Taylor
Female Swing	Jenni Carroll
Male Swing	Patrick O'Keefe

MUSICIANS

Conductor/Keyboard	Robert Ollis
Conductor/Keyboard	Kailey Rockwell (alternate)
Reeds	Suzanne Hannau
Guitar	Cesar Romero
Violin	Chuck Evans
Cello	Kelsee Vanderval

A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE is performed with one 10 minute intermission.

SETTING

Dublin, Ireland

Time: 1964

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Community

: a body of persons of common and especially professional interests scattered through a larger society.

Transition

: a movement, development, or evolution from one form, stage, or style to another.

"Most people are other people. Their thoughts are someone else's opinions, their lives a mimicry, their passions a quotation." - Oscar Wilde, *De Profundis*

"The books that the world calls immoral are books that show the world its own shame." - Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

"The truth is rarely pure and never simple." - Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*

"I am not young enough to know everything." - Oscar Wilde

ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES



Nick Arceo (Robbie Fay) is overjoyed to make his PFP debut. Credits: *Notes and Letters* (Underscore Theatre Company); *A Funny Thing...Forum* (Metropolis Performing Arts Centre); *Plaid Tidings*

(Towle Theater); *Grand Hotel* (Kokandy Productions); *Funny Girl*, *Pippin* (Revival Theatre Company). Nick would like to dedicate his performance to Rick Nees.



Ryan Armstrong (Ernie/Rascher, u/s Robbie Fay) is ecstatic to be returning to *Pride* where he was recently seen in *Flies! The Musical!* Recent credits include *Style & Grace* (Black Ensemble Theatre);

The Last Session (Refuge Theatre; Jeff Nomination- Supporting Performer Musical); *Sweeney Todd*, *The Most Happy Fella* (Theo Ubique). Ryan is from St. Louis and attended Millikin University.



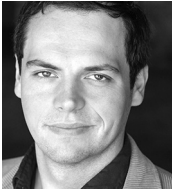
Tommy Bullington (William Carney) is making his PFP debut! Some favorite Chicago credits include *A New Brain*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Theo Ubique), *Poseidon! An Upside*

Down Musical (Hell in a Handbag), *Spirit Force Five* (The Factory Theater), *Urinetown* (Boho Theatre), *Return of Neverland* (Quest Theatre – Jeff Award, Supporting Actor Musical), and *Reefer Madness* (Circle Theatre).



Jenni Carroll (Swing) is excited to be making her PFP debut with AMONI! She is currently a senior at Columbia College Chicago studying musical theatre and photography. She would

like to thank her friends and family for their continuous support.



Christopher Davis

(Baldy, u/s Father Kenny) fondly remembers a PFP reading from 2012, but now makes his mainstage debut! *Southern Gothic* (Windy City Playhouse); *Dames at Sea, Cabaret, It's*

a Wonderful Life (Theatre at the Center); *Merrily We Roll Along* (Porchlight); *Bunnacula* (Lifeline); Williams Street Rep company member. "Thanks to Mom and the Aunts for their tireless support."



Ciera Dawn (Adele Rice)

is making her PFP debut! Select Chicago credits include *We Are Proud to Present...* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); *The Mutilated* (A Red Orchid Theatre), *Next To Normal*

(BoHo Theatre); *Madagascar* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); *Jesus Christ Superstar, The Little Mermaid* (Paramount Theatre). Ciera received her BFA from Emerson College and training with The School at Steppenwolf. Follow @thisiscieradawn, endless thanks to my family and team for their support!



Jessica Lauren Fisher

(Miss Crowe, Kitty) is a founding member of Eclectic Full Contact Theatre. She was last seen with Eclectic as Joanna Trout in their production of *Dear Brutus*. She has

performed with Black Button Eyes Productions, Three Crows Theatre, Music Theatre Works and Chamber Opera Chicago playing everything from mice to men. Favorite roles include Lucy in *Jekyll and Hyde*, Adele in *Die Fledermaus* and Sarah Daniels in *Spinning into Butter*. She has been a teaching artist for over 10 years and has worked as a choreographer, director, properties master and production manager. She is ever grateful to her family and her partner in everything Andrew. LVYA Mom!



Amanda Giles (Mrs

Curtin) is thrilled to be making her debut with Pride Films & Plays. Credits include: *Haymarket, Carrie 2: The Rage, My Name Is Annie King*, (Underscore

Theatre); *Pinkalicious, Elephant & Piggie: We're In A Play* (Northbrook Theatre); *Far From Heaven* (Porchlight Music Theatre); *Loving Repeating* (Kokandy Productions, Jeff nominated Best Actress). When not performing, you can find her going for long walks with her dog, laughing or having in depth conversations about all things body positivity, mental health and breast cancer awareness. "Who can tell you what you were destined to be; take it from me." Love is love. All ways, always.



Ryan Lanning (Alfie) is

thrilled to make his PFP debut. Chicago credits include: *Coraline* (Black Button Eyes Productions); *F**king Men, The Wild Party* (Bailiwick Chicago); *The*

Fantasticks, Candide (Porchlight Music Theatre); *Hedwig and The Angry Inch* (Haven Theatre); *Jerry Springer The Opera, Kiss of the Spiderwoman* (Bailiwick Repertory - Jeff Award, Actor Musical).



Kimberly Lawson (Mrs.

Grace, u/s Lily) returns to PFP where she most recently appeared as a storyteller in *Southern Comfort*. Other recent credits include *Woman of the Year* (Porchlight),

André De Shields's *Confessions of a P.I.M.P.*, and *WOZ A Rock Cabaret*. A regular in the cabaret scene, her shows include *She Plays the Violin, Animated Women, and Why Can't a Woman*.



Kevin O'Connell (Breton Beret/Oscar Wilde) is thrilled to be making his Pride Films & Plays debut. Kevin graduated from the University of Idaho with a BFA in Theatre. Chicago credits include:

Beyond Therapy (u/s, Eclipse Theatre); *Strangest Things! The Musical* and *The Bone House* (Random Acts); *Ivanov!* and *Vigils* (The Neighborhood Theatre). Regional credits include: *And We're Live*, *Dracula*, *A Christmas Carol*, *We've Come to Believe*, and *Purple* (Actors Theatre of Louisville). Film and TV includes: *Savance* with Arthur Uhlrich, and *Die Yuppie Scum*.



Patrick O'Keefe (Swing) is thrilled to be in his first production with PF&P. Chicago credits include *Head Over Heels* (Kokandy Productions), *Bonnie & Clyde* (MadKap Productions), and "Icarus"

in the world premiere of Michael Potsic's *Flight* (Beverly Arts Center). Patrick recently received his BFA in Musical Theatre from Millikin University.



Ian Rigg (Father Kenny / Ensemble) is a Jeff-nominated actor most recently seen as Tommy Wiseau in *Oh Hi Johnny!*; *The Roomsical Parody* (CMTF 2019), Nicolas Cage/Superman (The

Skewer), and *The Collector* (Aspire Productions). Eternal thanks to family, friends, cast, crew, and you: his own muses of fire.



Orlando Shelly (Peter, Ensemble, u/s Alfie) is so proud to work with PFP, being part of the LGBTQ+ community. Orlando received a BM from Eastern New Mexico

University and an MA at Louisiana Tech University. He has performed in a number of musicals around the nation including *American Idiot*, *Rent*, and *Diamond Lil*.



Sarah Beth Tanner (Lily Byrne) is proud to make her PFP debut! Recent credits: *Haymarket: A New Folk Musical* (Underscore Theatre Company), *Southern Gothic* (Windy City

Playhouse), *Two Days in Court* (City Lit Theater), and *Twelfth Night* (Midsummer Flight). SBT spends her time off-stage as a Culinary Producer: @sbtcooks. Love to my family and my Tyler!



Tiffany T. Taylor (Mrs. Patrick, u/s Adele) is thrilled to be making her PFP debut! Recent credits: *Head Over Heels* (Kokandy Productions); *New Faces Sing 1964* (Porchlight Music

Theatre); *Spring Awakening* (Blank Theatre Company); *Christmas Mubarak* (Silk Road Rising); *Into the Woods* (CCPA). BFA Musical Theatre: Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. Represented by DDO Artists Agency. For mom. @tiffanyttaylor. tiffanyttaylor.com



Thomas Tong (Sully O'Hara, Ensemble, u/s Carney) is back at PFP after performing in *Barney The Elf* last winter. Some Chicago credits include *Aces and Eights* (BYOT Productions); *The*

Giver (Improv Playhouse); *Moby Dick! The Musical* (Cuckoo's Theater Project); *Very Still & Hard to See* (Death & Pretzels). "We're going up!"

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Evan Frank (Scenic Design) returns to PFP where he designed *Buyer and Cellar* and *Casa Valentina*. Other recent designs include *Grace, or the Art of Climbing* (Brown Paper Box Company) and *Two Days in Court* (City Lit). Upcoming designs include *The Other Cinderella* (Black Ensemble Theater) and *Noises Off* (Metropolis). Efrankdesign.com

Donterrio Johnson (Director) is excited to be back at home with Pride Films and Plays, this time behind the table directing this new production of *A Man of No Importance*. Notable directing credits include: *Buyer and Cellar*, *The Colored Museum*, *101 Dalmatians*, *Emperor's New Clothes*, *Willy Wonka*, *Last Five Years*, *Little Shop Of Horrors*, and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Donterrio has worked with companies such as Pulse Theatre Company, Prisco Center, and the REPA Center.

Bob Kuhn (Costume Design) is pleased to be designing at PFP for the first time. Recent Chicago credits include *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Theo Ubique), *Bright Star* (Boho Theatre), *A Chorus Line* (Porchlight), and *This Bitter Earth* (About Face). Robert is a member of USA 829. www.robertskuhn.com

Emily Marrazzo (Stage Manager) Is thrilled to be making her PFP and Chicago debut. She recently came off of stage managing for BrightSide Theatre Company. She is a recent graduate from North Central College with a Bachelors in Theatre. Much love to her friends and family for their continued support.

Isaac Mandel (Sound Designer) most recently designed Refuge Theatre Projects *Last Session* and BNT *Plainclothes* and *Girl in the Red Corner*. Other past projects have included *Yank!*, *Some Like it Red*, *A Doll's House*, *Lysistrata Jones* and *Stella and Lou*. Before that he was living in his hometown in upstate NY and designed in NJ where he was nominated for his design of *Brothers*

Size. A thank you to his wife for dealing with all of the knavery and rascality.

Mike McShane (Lighting Designer): Freelance Theatrician. MFA: Theater (U.F.) PFP: *All That He Was*, *Buyer & Cellar*, *GRINDR: The Opera*. Followspot Operator for *Six* at Chicago Shakes. He won the 2017 Encore Michigan Wilde Award for Best Theatrical Video Design for *Singin' in the Rain*. mikemcshane.weebly.com.

Robert Ollis (Music Director) is an Artistic Associate of PFP and served as Music Director for its productions of *Southern Comfort*, *YANK! A WWII Love Story*, *Priscilla: Queen of the Desert*, *The Nance*, *The Boy from OZ*, *Songs from an Unmade Bed*, *A History of Summer*, *The Book of Merman* and *Under A Rainbow Flag*. He has music-directed *The Addams Family* and several other productions of the Casting Auction Players, as well as countless theatre-benefit concerts. He served as Music Director for Underscore Theatre's hit show *Haymarket: A New Folk Musical*. Robert received a Jeff Award for music direction of *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, plus Jeff nominations for six other shows. Robert served as Music Director for notable productions at Bailwick Chicago and Bailiwick Repertory Theatre, including Flaherty and Ahrens' *My Favorite Year*. Robert helped create *Judy & Liza: The London Palladium Concert — a Tribute* for Nancy Hays and Alexa Castelveccchi, and has accompanied performers Donna McKechnie, Capathia Jenkins, Andrea Marcovicci, Nick Adams and Alexandra Billings at cabaret and concert venues in New York City and Chicago. www.Robert-Ollis.com

Alison Petrillo (Assistant Director) is an actor, director and choreographer here in Chicago. She is thrilled to be working on this beautiful production of *A Man of No Importance* here at PFP. Some of her production credits include *Southern Comfort* (Pride Films and Plays); *Krugozor* (Theater Evolve); *Forever Plaid* (Split Stage

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

Productions); *The Sirens* (Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire); *Hair* (Split Stage Productions). Allison received her BFA in Musical Theatre from Shenandoah Conservatory. Thanks to all her friends and family for their support in her new and exciting behind the table journey!

Evan Sposato (Technical Director) has spent the last two decades in and around the theatre. Since moving to the Chicago area, Evan has worked as the Technical Director and Production Manager at Drury Lane and has built shows for Jackalope, Redtwist, City Lit, New Colony, Steep, Interobang, Cloudgate, and others. When Evan isn't in a theater, he works with political campaigns on voter contact and digital outreach.

Finn Taylor (Assistant Stage Manager) is new to Chicago, and can't be more excited to start his professional theatre career with Pride Films and Plays. He's looking forward to finding his place within the community.

Shannon Leigh Webber (Dialect Coach) is an actor and voice/dialect coach from

Dahlonega, GA and recently celebrated her 6 year Chicago anniversary. Shannon has a BA in Acting from Piedmont College and an MFA in Drama from the University of Arkansas. Some of her favorite roles include, Blanche in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and Katherine Brandt in *33 Variations*. Come see her get spooky with some fabulous puppets in Rough House Theater's *The Silence in Harrow House* at The Chopin Theatre.

Justus Wright (Sound Engineer) is so happy to be involved with Pride Films and Plays again! He previously worked on sound for *Southern Comfort* at PFP.

Matthew Zalinski (Props Designer) is excited to work on his first show at PFP. Selected credits include, *Spamalot* (Mercury Theatre Chicago); *Hello Again*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *The Bridges of Madison County*, and *The Full Monty* (Theo Ubique Cabaret Theater); *Mamma Mia*, *On The Town*, *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure* (Highland Park Players); *Into the Woods*, *The Cat in the Hat*, *Water by the Spoonful*, and *Oresteia* (Depaul University); Enjoy the show!

SPECIAL THANKS

Pride Films and Plays offers special thanks to those who helped support this production of *A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE*

Jim McDaniel and Kevin Hochberg, for adopting Kimberly Lawson and Christopher Davis
Andrea Murphy for adopting Amanda Giles, Ian Rigg and Thomas Tong
Jean Klingenstein for adopting Sarah Beth Tanner and Jenni Carroll
Robert Ollis and Richard Gibbons for adopting Nick Arceo and Patrick O'Keefe
Harvey Plotnick for adopting Tommy Bullington and Jessica Lauren Fisher
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Larry Blust for adopting Ciera Dawn
Paula and Ed Goedert for adopting Tiffany T. Taylor
Jim Condon for adopting Orlando Shelly
Bob Cohn, Jeff Torres, Karen and John Coons, Art Johnston & Pepe Pena, Steve Winters & Don Curtis for providing general production support.

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ABOUT PRIDE FILMS AND PLAYS

Pride Films and Plays creates diverse new work (or work that is new to Chicago) with LGBTQ+ characters or themes that is essential viewing for all audiences. We accomplish this mission through fully-staged productions, writing contests and staged readings, and filming one short film each season.

PFP is the primary tenant in the Pride Arts Center, which connects and promotes other artists who share our values, creating a safe environment for all. PAC books one-night events or limited runs, cabaret, film, dance, comedy, and other events. In 2015, Huffington Post called PFP "A powerful and empowering entity."

PFP is a member of the Belmont Theater District, League of Chicago Theaters, Buena Park Neighbors, LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois, Northalasted Business Alliance, and Uptown United. PFP is part of the Smart Growth program at Chicago Community Trust.

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