



blank
THEATRE COMPANY
PRESENTS

THE WILD PARTY

BOOK, MUSIC, AND LYRICS
BY ANDREW LIPPA

AUGUST 26-SEPTEMBER 25
THE REGINALD VAUGHN THEATRE
1106 W THORNDALE AVE
WWW.BLANKTHEATRECOMPANY.ORG

Blank Theatre Company Presents

THE WILD PARTY

Book, Music, and Lyrics by
ANDREW LIPPA

Based on the Poem by Joseph Moncure March

Partially Developed and Received Readings at
The O'Neill Theater Center
During the 1997 National Music Theatre Conference
Original Produced in New York City by The Manhattan Theatre Club

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....Jason A. Fleece
Music Director.....Aaron Kaplan
Choreographer.....Lauryn Schmelzer
Stage Manager.....Caitlyn Birmingham
Scenic Designer.....Kathryn Healy
Lighting Designer.....Matt Kooi
Costume Designer.....Colin Bradley Meyer
Sound Designer.....Tom Jasek
Fight Choreographer.....Brian Plocharczyk
Intimacy Designer.....Christa Retka
Associate Music Director.....Sachio Sang
Producer.....Danny Kapinos*

CAST

QueenieKarylin Veres
BurrsDustin Rothbart*
Mr. Black.....Marc Prince
Kate.....LJ Bullen
Madelaine True.....Mary Nora Wolf
EddieIan Reed
Mae.....Kaitlin Feely
Nadine.....Samantha Rockhill
Phil D'ArmanoNicky Mendelsohn
Oscar D'ArmanoLarry D. Trice II
SamMark Yacullo
DoloresCarter Rose Sherman
MaxJackson Mikkelsen
JackieTrent Ramert

UNDERSTUDIES

For Madelaine True, Dolores: Kathleen Fox; for Eddie, Sam: Alex Hatcher; for Oscar, Jackie: Alex Iacobucci; for Mae, Nadine: Carolyn Waldee; for Queenie: Kaitlin Feely; for Phil: Jackson Mikkelsen; for Max: Trent Ramert; for Kate: Carter Rose Sherman; for Mr. Black: Larry D. Trice II; for Burrs: Mark Yacullo

*Dance Captain: Trent Ramert
Fight Captain: Larry D. Trice II*

*Denotes Blank Theatre Company Member

ORCHESTRA

Keyboard/Guitar/Conductor: Sachio Nang
Trumpet: Michael Leavens
Drums: Craig Buckner
Bass: Eric von Holst

*Keyboard Programming: Sachio Nang
Original Orchestrations by: Michael Gibson*

SPECIAL THANKS

Katie Capp, Ben Carne, Cindy Moon, Patti Halajian, Detroit Dave Sinkus, Charlotte Sinkus, Kat Hasanov, Trent Jones, The Schmelzer Family, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Unity Lutheran Church, Midsommer Flight, Invictus Theatre

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act 1

Queenie Was a Blonde.....	Queenie Burrs, Company
The Apartment.....	Queenie, Burrs, Company
Out of the Blue.....	Queenie, Burrs
What a Party.....	Burrs, The Gang
Raise the Roof.....	Queenie, The Gang
Look at Me Now.....	Kate
He Was Calm.....	Queenie, Black, The Gang
Poor Child.....	Black, Kate, Queenie, Burrs
An Old-Fashioned Love Story.....	Madelaine True
By Now the Room was Moving.....	Company
The Juggernaut.....	Queenie, Black, Kate, Burrs, Company
A Wild, Wild Party.....	Oscar, Phil, Max, Queenie, Burrs, Company
Two of A Kind.....	Eddie, Mae
Of all the Luck.....	Black, Queenie
Maybe I Like it This Way.....	Queenie
What Is It About Her?.....	Burrs, Queenie

Act 2

Life of the Party.....	Kate
Who Is This Man?.....	Queenie
The Gal for Me.....	Black, Queenie
I'll Be Here.....	Black
Listen to Me.....	Black, Burrs, Kate, Queenie
Let Me Drown.....	Burrs, Kate, The Gang
The Fight.....	Eddie, Burrs, Company
I Know Nothing About You.....	Queenie, Black
Come with Me.....	Black, Queenie, The Gang
Jackie's Last Dance.....	Jackie
Make Me Happy.....	Burrs, Black, Queenie
Poor Child (Reprise).....	Black, Queenie
How Did We Come to This?.....	Queenie

THE WILD PARTY runs 2 hours and 30 minutes, including one 15-minute intermission

CAST BIOS

Karylin Veres (Queenie) is thrilled to be working with Blank again, after performing in *She Loves Me* this spring. Hailing from sunny Arizona, Karylin received her BA in Theater (Acting Concentration) from Arizona State University. Favorite credits include *42nd St.* (Peggy), *My Fair Lady* (Eliza Doolittle), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Millie Dillmount), *Titus Andronicus* (Tamora), among others. She would like to thank her friends, family, and boyfriend who have given her endless support. You can see more of Karylin's work at karylinveres.com

Dustin Rothbart (Burrs) is one of the Co-Founding Artistic Directors of Blank Theatre Company. For Blank, Dustin has appeared on stage as Georg in *Spring Awakening* and The Chairman in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Chicago: *Camelot* (Janus Concert Series); *Anyone Can Whistle*, *25th...Spelling Bee*, *Funny Girl* (Madkap Productions); *The History Boys* (Eclectic Theatre); *Lester's Dreadful Sweaters* (Lifeline Theatre); *The Little Mermaid*, *Man of La Mancha* (JPAC) *Oliver!* (Citadel Theatre) Chekov's *The Wedding* (Red Theatre); *Hair*, *Ragtime* (Big Noise Theatre); *Cabaret* (Brightside Theatre); *The Rocky Horror Show* (Underscore Theatre Company) *Electra* (Mary-Arrchie Theatre Co). Regional: *Little Bits of Light* (Hampstead Stage Company); *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Canterbury Summer Theatre). Thank you to Matthew Ellenwood. Dustin is a graduate of the acting program at Illinois State University. www.DustinRothbart.com @dustinrothbart

Marc Prince (Mr. Black) is so excited to be a part of The Wild Party. His most recent credits include *4,000 Days* (Pride Arts), *Christmas Dearest* (Hell in a Handbag), *Tru: A Musical for Mental Health* (Gosz & Fotos), *Afterglow* (Pride Arts Center); *Poseidon: An Upside Down Musical* (Hell in a Handbag). Studies include Black Box Acting (Chicago) & Alliance Theater Group (Atlanta, GA). Marc would like to thank his incredible support system and all the artists he gets to play with!

Mary Nora Wolf (Madelaine True) is delighted to make her return to the stage since March 2020 with Blank! She spent the six years prior to the pandemic doing Musical Comedy and Opera/Operetta after making return to Musical Theatre late 2019 in Xanadu. Mary Nora's activities off the stage include sewing, fiber arts, roller skating, gardening, and her two black cats, Boo and Fionn. Select credits: *Caliope* (Xanadu) *Maggie Jones* (42nd Street), *A Tailor* (Merrie England), *Lucille Early* (No, No, Nanette), *Phoebe* (As You Like It), *Madame*

Thenardier (Les Miserables), Katisha (The Mikado), Adriana (A Comedy of Errors), Director (How Does That Make You Feel). Mary Nora has completed the Improv and Music Improv Conservatories as well as Writing with The Onion at The Second City Training Center and would refer to “Gilbert and Sullivan Chorus Girl” as her brand. Special thanks to Noah for taking care of the kitties during rehearsal. It’s all for you, Sitto. IAR.

LJ Bullen (Kate) is excited to make their Blank Theatre Co. debut! They have most recently been seen as Fay Apple in ‘Anyone Can Whistle’ at The Skokie Theatre. They are also a member of CCP (Chicago Cabaret Professionals) and can be seen in cabaret performances across Chicago. Their debut EP ‘I’m For You’ is available on all music platforms with a full length album upcoming. Much love to the cast and crew, my friends, family, and my partner Rob. 123

Ian Reed (Eddie) holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Culver-Stockton College in Canton, MO. He was last seen having a blast in Surging Films & Theatrics production of The SpongeBob Musical as the lovable dope Patrick Star. Some past favorite roles include Frank N Furter In The Rocky Horror Show, Monty in A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder, Joe in Sunset Blvd, and Phoebus in The Hunchback of Notre Dame. Ian would like to thank his friends and family for always being there to support his theatrical endeavors. But more importantly he’d like to thank his beautiful girlfriend Alexis for the constant love and support and also their adorable goofball of a dog Laura Palmer, or LP as she is more frequently known, for making life full of love, laughs, and cuddles. Ian thanks you for your continued support of live theatre and hopes you enjoy The Wild Party!

Kaitlin Feely (Mae) is thrilled to be making her debut with Blank Theatre! Kaitlin holds a BFA in Music Theatre and a minor in Mathematics from Illinois Wesleyan University. Most recent credits include Olivia in *Twelfth Night* (Optimist Theatre), Suzanne u/s in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Citadel Theatre), and Suzanne in *Don’t Dress for Dinner* (BrightSide Theatre). Kaitlin would like to thank her wonderful cast and production team, and her exceptional parents.

Larry D. Trice II (Oscar D’Armano, u/s Mr. Black) is overjoyed to having a Wild Party with Blank Theatre Company. They are the Artistic Director of Trans Voice Cabaret Chicago. Previous Blank Credits: She Loves Me. Some of their favorite credits include: Back In The Day (Urban Theater Company), Shrek (Windy City Performs), Kingdom (Broken Nose), Magic Treehouse: Showtime with Shakespeare (Emerald City Theatre), Once On This Island (That Was a Show Theatre Co.), Rocky Horror Show (Stage Wright Productions), Spring Awakening (Music For Theatre Chicago), and countless other shows, readings and cabarets.

Love to their friends, fam, and my little guy Eli. Keep up with them on social media IG, Twitter, TikTok @LtriceBelts

Nicky Mendelsohn (Phil D'Armano) Nicky is thrilled to be working with Blank for the first time! Nicky is an ensemble member at Hell in a Handbag Productions where he has worked on *Poseidon*, *Christmas Dearest*, *The Drag Seed*, and *A Fine Feathered Murder*. In Chicago, Nicky has also worked with Pride Films and Plays, Chicago Theatre Works, Citadel Theatre, and Williams Street Rep. Regional credits include Pricilla Beach Theatre, The Round Barn Theatre, Timberlake Playhouse, and Cedar Point. Nicky holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Western Michigan University.

Samantha Rockhill (Nadine) graduated from Emerson College in 2020, and is so excited to be making her Chicago theatre debut. Collegiate credits include *First Date* (Casey), *Catch Me if You Can* (Brenda) and *Lucky Stiff* (female swing). She also toured with Bright Star Touring theatre, bringing theatre to rural areas all over the country. A big thanks to everyone who came out to support!

Mark Yacullo (Sam, u/s Burrs) is ecstatic to be working with Blank Theatre Company in "The Wild Party." His previous credits include *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Einstein) at Citadel Theatre, *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour) at Metropolis Performing Arts Centre, *Columbinus* (Freak) at Random Acts Chicago, *Sammy: A Tribute to Sammy Davis Jr* (Dean Martin) at Black Ensemble Theatre and *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Chip) at Madkap Productions. Much thanks to the cast and crew for all their hard work and passion. Get ready to laugh, smile and dance for awhile!

Carter Rose Sherman (Dolores, u/s Kate) is thrilled to be working with Blank Theatre Company for the first time! Most recently, she appeared as Veronica in The Edge Theater's production of *Heathers*. Previous credits include *Nell Gwynn* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater) and *Pride and Prejudice* (Edge of the Wood Resident Theater). Lots of love and gratitude for her family and friends.
carterrosesherman.com.

Jackson Mikkelsen (Max, u/s Phil) is delighted to be making his Blank debut in *The Wild Party*! Jackson is a B.F.A. Musical Theatre student at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, and also a freelance stage technician in Chicago's storefront scene. Recent credits include *The Tempest* (U/S Stephano) with Oak Park Festival Theatre, *The Pajama Game* (Hines) at the CCPA, and *Grand Carnivale* (Archy) at Valleyfair. He thanks you for supporting the arts!

Trent Ramert (Jackie, u/s Max) is thrilled to be making his debut at Blank Theatre Company. Trent is currently a Junior at Columbia College Chicago pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre Performance with a Minor in Dance. Previous credits at Columbia include *Edges* (Male Swing) and MT New Student Showcase (Featured Soloist). Other credits include *James and the Giant Peach* (Ladahlord) and *The Theory of Relativity* (Ryan). Thanks to my family and friends for all your support! @trentramert

Alex Hatcher (u/s Eddie, Sam) is thrilled to be making his Blank Theatre Company debut with the amazing cast and creative team of *The Wild Party!* Regional Credits: Baby John in *West Side Story*, *The Nerd*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Legend of Georgia McBride* (Milwaukee Rep), and Dr. Lyman Hall in *1776* (New Rep). Other favorite credits include *Mr. Burns: Post Electric Play*, *Angels in America: Perestroika*, Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (BU), and Hamlet in *Hamlet* (LAMDA). Obtained his BFA in Acting with a concentration in Musical Theater with a Dance minor from Boston University.

Alex Iacobucci (u/s Jackie, Oscar) is beyond excited to bring the heat to this wild, wild show alongside such an amazing cast and crew. An Italian native adopted by the Midwest, recent credits include Hot Blades Harry in *Urinetown*, Larry/Electric Skate in *Spongebob* (Surging Films & Theatrics), U.S. for *Tommy on Top* and *The Things I Could Never Tell Steven* (Pride Arts), ensemble in *Mamma Mia!* (Music Theatre Works). Much love to his friends for being his family away from home, and to his needy pets Dawn and Mochi. IG: @spikealex

Kathleen Fox (u/s Madelaine True, Dolores) is very excited to make her Chicago musical theatre debut with Blank Theatre Company! Local credits: Polar Express Train Ride (Rail Events Inc) and The Dinner Detective. Community credits: Legally Blonde (Vivienne), Dogfight (Rose), Heathers the Musical (Martha). She graduated from Ball State University and received a BA in Theatrical Studies with a Leadership Studies minor. She dedicates this to her family and friends, always and forever. @kathleenwfox

Carolyn Waldee (u/s Mae, Nadine) is thrilled to be making her Blank mainstage debut after singing in last year's Love BLANKs Valentine's Day Cabaret. Carolyn is an ensemble member at GreatWorks Touring Theater, where she most recently played Mrs. Primm in *Lyle the Crocodile*, Margot in *Anne Frank: Voices from the Attic*, and Annemarie in *Number the Stars* for young theater-goers across the country. Offstage, you can find Carolyn at farmers' markets across Chicagoland for her fifth season as a professional cheesemonger for the (aptly named) Cheese People. Love always to her friends, family, and Daniel.

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

Jason A. Fleece (Director) is thrilled to be directing for Blank Theatre Company for the first time. Jason is a director, dialect coach and educator. Jason is the former Co-Artistic Director of Stage Left Theatre where his directing credits include the Jeff Award winning production of *Body of an American* (Chicago Premiere), *The Luckiest People* (rolling World Premiere), *Warped* (World Premiere) and *An Enemy of the People*. Other favorite directorial credits include *Anyone Can Whistle* (MadKap Productions); *Ordinary Days* (Boho Theatre); *Cabaret*, *Heathers*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* and *Sweeney Todd* (Oakton Performing Arts Center). Jason received his MFA in Directing from the Theatre School at Depaul University. Alex, “You’re a one-two punch, a catered lunch, a melon on the rind.”

Aaron Kaplan (Music Director) is a Chicago based conductor, music director, cellist, arranger, and educator. He has music directed/conducted over 80 productions, the majority with full orchestration, including *Les Miserables*, *On the Town*, *West Side Story*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Of Thee I Sing*. He is an orchestra director at Glenbrook North and Glenbrook South High School, conducts the Preludio orchestra and cello choir at the Music Institute of Chicago, and the Sinfonia orchestra for the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra. He earned his master's degree in orchestral conducting under the tutelage of Donald Schleicher, in addition to his bachelor's degree in cello performance and music education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Lauryn Solana Schmelzer (Choreographer) is a local choreographer hailing from Skokie, IL. She trained at Gus Giordano Dance School, Visceral Dance Center and Lou Conte Dance Studio. Lauryn earned a Bachelors in Dance and Political Science with a Musical Theater Choreography Certificate from Northwestern University. Choreography credits include *Sister Act* (Niles North High School), *Matilda* (Niles North High School), *Wigmore Follies Presents: A Listening Session* (Northwestern Law), *A Jazz Nutcracker* (Northwestern New Movement Project), *My Fair Lady* (Wave Theater Company), *Little Shop of Horrors* (The 75th Annual Dolphin Show), and *Women On The Verge Of a Nervous Breakdown* (Arts Alliance). Former Artistic Director of Steam Heat Musical Theater Dance Company. Much love to Mary Ann, Ed, Geoffrey and Rex.

Kathryn Healy (Scenic Designer) is a scenic and props designer who holds a BFA from DePaul University's acclaimed Theatre School. She loves designing period pieces, horror shows, and children's plays that make adults raise their eyebrows. Her recent credits include designing the props for *Notes and Letters*

(Underscore Theatre Co.) and *Candide* (DePaul Opera Theatre.) Catch her later this fall as the props designer for *Last Ascent*, produced by The New Coordinates! Her entire portfolio can be found at www.khealydesigns.com.

Matt Kooi (Lighting Designer) is excited to be working on his first show with the Blank Theater Company. Matt currently works as the lighting designer at Oakton College. He has designed several shows with Jason Fliess including: Sweeney Todd, Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, and Heathers. Matt has also worked with 16th Street Theater, Big Noise Theater, Stage Left Theater, BoHo Theater and Assassination Theater. He would like to thank his wife and kids for their support.

Colin Bradley Meyer (Costume Designer) is excited to be back working with Blank after last designing *Mystery of Edwin Drood*. You may have seen Colin's work around the Chicago area at: Metropolis Performing Arts, Citadel Theatre, The Conspirators, Adventure Stages Chicago, Pride Arts and many more. Thank you to Dustin, Danny, Jason, and Charlie. colinbradleymeyer.com

Brian Plocharczyk (Fight Choreographer) is a Chicago based actor, voiceover, fight choreographer, and educator. Brian previously choreographed *Violence* for Blank Theatre Company's production of *Spring Awakening*. He has choreographed violence for Stage Left, First Folio, Oakton Community College, The Performers School, and Bolingbrook high school. Film work includes *Christian* (Dottie, Stunt Coordinator/ Fight Choreography), *Grey Beard* (Stunt Coordinator/Fight Choreography) and *AND ACTION!*(Stunt Coordinator). In his Acting work Brian has been twice nominated for a Joseph Jefferson Best Actor Award. When not pursuing his acting or Fight work Brian is part time adjunct faculty at Columbia College Chicago (voiceover), The Acting Studio Chicago (voiceover and on camera), and teaches Shotokan karate as well. Check out www.brianplo.com for more info.

Christa Retka (Intimacy Designer) is a stage director and intimacy director based out of the Chicago area. Previously, she worked with Metropolis Performing Arts Center as the assistant director for *SHOUT! THE MOD MUSICAL* and MadKap Productions as an intimacy director for *ANYONE CAN WHISTLE*. She has also frequently worked with Redtwist Theatre and PrideArts. Some of her favorite projects have included directing and intimacy directing *THIS IS WAR* and *HAND TO GOD* with Theatrix in Nebraska. Feel free to check out some more of her work at www.christaretka.com

Caitlyn Birmingham (Stage Manager) is a newer resident of Chicago and the Chicago theater scene! Before moving to the Windy City, Caitlyn studied stage

management and theater at Marquette. She worked on multiple productions throughout the Milwaukee area including *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Potting Shed*, and *Unnecessary Farce*. Since then, she has associated with many different productions in Chicago such as, Trap Door Theater's *And Away We Stared*, Griffin Theater's *Solaris*, *Sex Tips For Straight Women From a Gay Man*, and has an upcoming show with Young People's Theater titled *Peabody*. Caitlyn is beyond excited to be a part of *Wild Party* and can't wait to show Chicago this extremely fun production. She would like to thank the whole Blank Theater team for making this show one of her favorite experiences thus far. She would also like to thank her family and partner for encouraging her to continue pursuing her love for theater. Grab your partner by the collar and enjoy the show!
website: <https://caitlynbirmin.wixsite.com/my-site>

Tom Jasek (Sound Designer) is happy to be making noises with Blank Theater for *Wild Party*. In the past he's contributed to shows at Next, Lifeline, Red Door, and Zephyr Dance, to name a few. His sound for New Crime's production of Jean Genet's "The Balcony" was nominated for a Jeff Award. Tom is a percussionist and has collaborated with an eclectic lineup of bands dating back to the proto-Wicker Park art school bands Shrimp Boat and Falstaff. He's currently a company member of *The Conspirators* and the drummer for *Estate Sale*.

Danny Kapinos (Producer) serves as co-founding Artistic Director of Blank Theatre Company, where he has directed *She Loves Me*, *Spring Awakening*, and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Credits as an assistant director include *Pearl's Rollin' With the Blues* (Writers Theatre), *The King's Speech* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), and *Becky Shaw* (Windy City Playhouse). He also works as an accompanist and music director. Proud graduate of Northwestern University. SDC Associate Member and SDCF Observership Class of 2019-2021

Blank Theatre Company Production History

2017-2018:

The First Page: a Cabaret

Blank's Sondheim Birthday Party

Songs for a New World: In Concert
Music and Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown

2018-2019:

Spring Awakening
Music and Lyrics by Duncan Sheik, Book by Steven Sater

New Year, New You: a Cabaret

Blackbird
By David Harrower

The Next Page: a Cabaret

2019-2020:

The CaBOOret

The Mystery of Edwin Drood
Book, Music and Lyrics by Rupert Holmes

LOVE [BLANK]S: A Valentine's Day Cabaret

Nine – Cancelled due to Covid 19
Music and Lyrics by Maury Yeston, Book by Arthur Kopit

2021-2022:

Blank Sings: The Maury Yeston Songbook

LOVE [BLANK]S TOO: A Valentine's Day Cabaret

She Loves Me
Music by Jerry Bock, Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, Book by Joe Masteroff

Marvelous Moments: The Music of Stephen Sondheim
In Association with the JAM Orchestra

The Wild Party
Book, Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa

Mission Statement

Blank Theatre Company is an artistic home that connects emerging theatre-makers with seasoned professionals by creating fulfilling artistic opportunities that give new life to existing texts and welcome new and frequent theatre-goers alike.

Learn more about Blank Theatre Company at
www.blanktheatrecompany.org