



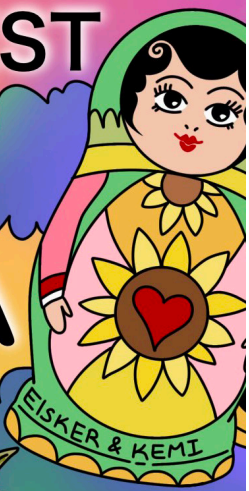
*The new story*

# Albany High School

## SHORT PLAY FEST

ABOUT

# SOCIAL MEDIA



Power of

# ABOUT SHORT PLAY FEST

NOVEMBER 17-19, 2023

The plays presented here were written and directed entirely by our incredibly talented Albany High Theater Ensemble students, all relating to this year's theme of social media. We hope you enjoy the performances!

## **THE IDOL**

### **WRITERS**

Iris Whalen, Shaquin Robinson,  
Nikkya Hylton, Bianca Concepcion  
Melendez & Desiree Watkins

### **DIRECTOR**

Ian Roach

## **THE MUSIC THIEF**

### **WRITERS**

Maia Ballato, Gelissa Phillips,  
Briana Morton, Maggie Bailey, Zoe  
Silvestri & Jadalynn Velazquez

### **DIRECTOR**

Ray Blanken

### **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

Z'Andre Wilkinson

# LOCKED IN

## WRITERS

Rowan Hoehn, Rey Rodriguez, Nicholas Caesar, Devin Ramos & Lucy Edvalson

## DIRECTOR

Declan Chirlin

# ELSKER & KEMI

## WRITERS

Autumn Citrine, Sienna Stewart & Adeline Noble

## DIRECTOR

Ray Blanken

## ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Z'Andre Wilkinson

# DUEL OF THE NERDS

## WRITER

Ian Roach

## DIRECTOR

Declan Chirlin

# CAST & COMPANY

Camden Allen  
Katerine Barros  
Acee Boschulte  
Mel'Lani Campbell  
Celine Casasola  
Lynelle Cooper  
Ulta Diana  
Alexander Fournier  
Marina Generali  
Lucinda Hiles  
Jayden Lozada  
Will O'Neill  
Gelissa Phillips  
Christina Pringle  
Zay-Quan Rivers  
Rey Rodriguez  
Anadi Sarkar  
Nina Scandurra  
Esperanza Soto  
Alex Steuer  
Shadie Walters  
Iris Whalen  
John Willis Jr.

# CREW

Tasmia Athoi | Head Costumer  
Robert Berry | Backstage Crew  
Ashanty Fernandez | Backstage Crew  
Karly Grant | Backstage Crew  
Meskerem Kelle | Lights  
Naomi Koudoagbo | Costumes  
Alicia Myers | Costumes  
Julia O'Neill | Set Design (*The Idol*)  
Cole Roc | Light Design/  
Board Op/Costumes  
Shaelynn Sobolewski | Hair/Make-Up  
Sage Volmer | Costumes/Props/Sound  
Imre Zak | Backstage Crew

# FACULTY ADVISERS

Cheyenne Adams  
Brian Avery  
Rose Biggerstaff  
Jahmere Holland  
Amanda Weklar

# COVER ART

Ray Blanken

# CAST & CREW BIOS

**Cheyenne Adams** (House Manager) is excited to be working with the AHS Theater Ensemble again! A cherished alum from the stages of the past, Cheyenne now navigates the box office with the same passion that graced past performances. With a friendly smile and a knack for ensuring every seat is filled, Cheyenne brings organizational prowess and an alumni's touch to the heart of their productions. Behind the scenes, they work tirelessly to ensure that every attendee becomes part of the ongoing story of our vibrant theater community.

**Camden Allen** (Clara) is excited to once again be a part of an AHS theater production. Camden took part in stage crew in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and in 9<sup>th</sup> for AHS's show *Sister Act*. She is grateful to her family and friends who encouraged her to participate in this.

**Tasmia Athoi** (Head Costumer) is a freshman at AHS after attending Albany Community Charter School. This is her first year being a part of theater and she's really excited for it. Growing up she was really into art and drawing. She never really thought she would ever willingly want to be involved in this sort of thing, but now that she is, she sees lots of new potential!

**Brian Avery** (Theater Director) is excited to be returning with AHS Theater Ensemble. Brian has been a theater practitioner for over 20 years. He graduated with honors from Stony Brook University (B.A. Theater) and Saint Rose (M.S. Education.). He has worked on over 100 shows both locally and professionally. Some of his favorite directing credits include *All Shook Up* (CLT), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Class Act), *Trestle at Pope Lick Creek* (ACT) *Little Women* (NSCP), *Company* (Class Act) and *Love Letters* (Spotlight).

He is also a dialect coach, having worked on the Off-Broadway musical *The Wrong Box*. He would like to thank the cast and crew for all their support!!

**Rose Biggerstaff** (Producer) is the new theater TA at Albany High School. She is a professional stage manager and director who is excited to return to teaching. Prior to the Short Play Fest, Rose has worked both backstage and onstage! Past credits include directing and stage managing with companies such as Capital Repertory Theater, Troy Foundry Theatre, Northeast Theater Ensemble, SLOC, BrownBox Productions, NSCP, BTTUNY, WAM Theater, Shakespeare & Company and Proctors, as well as many others. She is hoping to make her return to the stage soon! Outside of the theater she enjoys painting, reading and doing nail art. Break legs to the cast and crew!

**Ray Blanken** (Director) is a first time director and is very excited to work on this project! Ray has always wanted to be a director and is very thankful for this opportunity! Some future theater productions you can see Ray in are: *Spring Awakening* (Park Playhouse) and hopefully *Spelling Bee* at Albany High School! Enjoy the show!

**Acee Boschulte** (Mel) is a freshman at Albany High. Previous credits include shows such as *Moana Jr.*, *10 Ways To Survive A Zombie Apocalypse* and *Elf Jr.* This is Acee's first performance at Albany High and she is very excited!

**Mel'Lani Campbell** (User #3) is happy to be performing again at Albany High School. This is her second time doing theater. She was the waitress/bartender in *Sister Act* last school year. Outside of school she enjoys doing step and dance with Magnificent Tone Setters. She hopes the cast and crew break a leg. Enjoy the show!!

**Celine Casasola** (Lia) is a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at Albany High and this is her fourth performance. In the past, she has done three musicals including *Moana*

(*Moana*), *Elf. Jr.* (Jovie) and *Mean Girls* (Janis Ian), and junior directed one (*10 Ways to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse*.) She's very excited and wants to thank her friends and family for supporting her.

**Declan Chirlin** (Director) is happy to bring you *Locked In* and *Duel of the Nerds*. He has previously worked on *Sister Act* as Ernie. He has the pleasure to work with the amazing talent on stage and hopes you enjoy the show.

**Lynelle Cooper** (User #2) is happy to be a part of the AHS Theater Ensemble and be in the play. She is a freshman and came from North Albany, and she is excited to be a part of the production!

**Ulta Diana** (Salece) is extremely excited to be a part of this show! They are so grateful to have this be their first show. Thank you to everyone who's made this experience memorable!

**J'Anni Elfridge** (Stage Crew) is excited to work on this year's Play Fest. She would like to thank the cast and crew and hopes everyone enjoys the show!

**Ashanty Fernandez** (Fan/Stage Crew) is very excited to be doing her first project with the AHS Theater Ensemble. She is honored to be a part of this production!

**Alexander Fournier** (Robbie) is making his first theatrical appearance in this year's AHS Short Play Fest! Alex has been an avid student in theater/drama classes and is excited to perform. Alex plans to participate in many more plays in the future, and has aspirations to even create a play of his own.

**Marina Generali** (Theo) is nervous to start her new acting career. Marina is a freshman at Albany High School. Outside of the theater, Marina is a soccer and lacrosse player. Marina also takes her piano lessons very seriously. Marina loves to make people laugh and bring out everyone's inner smile.



**Karly Grant** (Stage Crew) is eager and excited to work on this year's Short Play Fest. Karly has danced competitively on stage for over 11 years, but has now flipped sides and has found interest in what goes on behind the scenes. This will be her second year of doing stage crew, and she loves making the show run. She would like to thank the directors for giving her a show to run!

**Lucinda Hiles** (Isa/Harper) is very excited to join the theater program at Albany High School. She has done a few theater programs outside of school such as *Robin Hood and the Good and Bad Fairies of Nottingham* and *Alice in Wonderland* (Steamer 10). She is very happy to be participating in shows with the high school and is looking forward to doing even more productions as well.

**Jahmere Holland** (Tech Director) is excited to be returning to the AHS Theater Ensemble. He is a graduate of Albany High and is the varsity cheerleading coach and technical director. He is also the proud owner of Triple Threat Cheerleading and a local business. He would like to thank everyone involved for their hard work and dedication!

**Naomi Koudoagbo** (Costumer) is a freshman at AHS after attending Kipp Tech Valley. She is very excited to help out in the play. She always wanted to do something with acting, music, or writing as a career and being a part of the play helps bring her closer to her goal and gives her more experience in the field.

**Jayden Lozada** (Elizar) is very excited to be in this show with the AHS Theater Ensemble. Jayden has been acting for a few years, with this being his tenth overall play and his second with the AHS Theater Ensemble, the first being *Sister Act*. He is very grateful for the opportunity given to him and is thankful to those who encouraged him!

**Alicia Myers** (Costumes) is excited to be involved in the Play Fest! Alicia is a freshman at Albany High.

They are excited to be working on a play for the first time. In their free time they like to do art and outfit designing. They are shy before you get to know them, but they warm up after a while, just say hi!

**Julia O'Neill** (Set Design) is so excited to be working on *The Idol!* She is a ninth-grader and this is her first show working on set design, but she has done many shows as an actor. These include *Mean Girls*, *Moana* and more. She would like to thank all the cast and crew for all the hard work that they have put in to make this show amazing. Break a leg!

**Will O'Neill** (Chris) is delighted to be returning to the AHS Theater Ensemble. His previous roles include King Julien (*Madagascar*), *The Day Time Stopped*, and Monsignor O'Hara (*Sister Act*). Some say the greatest, some the humblest. One thing's certain, he's funny.

**Gelissa Phillips** (Fan #1) is fortunate to be a part of the AHS Theater Ensemble. Gelissa has always been into acting, but finally got the confidence to join the show this 2023-2024 school year. Gelissa hopes to be a part of more AHS Theater productions throughout their career!

**Christina Pringle** (User #1) is excited to be participating in one of the short plays. Christina has been performing ever since fifth grade. Some shows include *Honk Jr.*, *Annie*, and *Sister Act*. Christina wishes everyone the best of luck and will give it her all for this performance.

**Zay-Quan Rivers** (Cayden) is excited to be making his debut with the AHS Theater Ensemble. Zay has never been in a play before. He is a ninth-grader at Albany High who loves to sing and draw. He would like to thank the cast and crew for making this a great experience!

**Ian Roach** (Director) is excited to be making his directorial debut at AHS! Credits include *Moana Jr.* (Chief Tui), *Sister Act* (Hooker/Altar Boy), and more. He has a passion for film and theater. Ian thanks

his family for always supporting his interests.

**Cole Roc** (Lights/Crew) is grateful to be a part of the AHS Theater Ensemble. He has been on stage in *Mary Poppins*, but this is the first time helping behind the scenes. Cole is cheering the cast on from behind the curtains!

**Rey Rodriguez** (Wyatt) is very excited to be a part of another AHS Theater Ensemble production. They have been acting for over 7 years but their most notable role was Pablo in AHS Theater Ensemble's production of *Sister Act*. Rey would like to thank everyone who has helped to bring this festival to life and hopes everyone enjoys the show!

**Anadi R. Sarkar** (Jamie) is very honored to be making her theater debut with the AHS Short Play Fest. Anadi has spent some time on stage in the past for Bengali folk dance and in the junior high orchestra as a violist. Her passions lie in spending time with her loved ones and pets. Anadi is very grateful for this opportunity and for meeting such wonderful people.

**Nina Scandurra** (Opal) is thrilled to be working with the AHS Theater Ensemble again. Her past experiences include her role of nun in *Sister Act*. She would like to thank the staff, cast, and crew and hopes that you enjoy the performances!!!!

**Shaelynn Sobolewski** (Hair/Make-Up) is excited to work on this year's Play Fest. She would like to thank the cast and crew and hopes everyone enjoys the show.

**Esperanza Soto** (Grace) is a senior here at Albany High School and glad to make her debut in the Short Play Fest. She would like to give all the credit to both her director Ray Blanken, along with the cast for their constant support and patience!

**Alex Steuer** (Lola) is excited to make their debut

with the AHS Theater Ensemble, and their previous credits include *Moana Jr.* They have a passion for the performing and fine arts. They would like to thank everyone who made this possible, friends, and family.

**Sage Volmer** (Costume/Props/Crew) is making her debut with the AHS Theater Ensemble. Previously she has worked on the crew for *Annie*. She is very excited to be working on the play fest. Enjoy the show!

**Shadie Walters** (Aaron) is very ambiverted and very sociable and yet also very quiet. Both a ball of anxiety and affection, easily one of the most friendly people you'll meet. Previous performances include *Mean Girls Jr.*, *Mary Poppins Jr.*, and *10 Ways to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse*.

**Amanda Weklar** (Producer) has worked in the City School District of Albany for 20 years - most of them as a Social Studies teacher focused on Civics Engagement. Amanda has worked with the Theatre Ensemble for the last 10 years as Producer and digital art projection designer and runs the High School Yearbook in addition to her classroom duties. In her free time, she raises two amazing boys, and a few pets; loves to bake; sings in a church choir; rides horses; and crochets.

**Iris Whalen** (Eloise) is excited to be returning to the stage! Previous credits include *Sister Mary Robert (Sister Act)* and being featured at The Boston Conservatory at Berklee School of Music. Iris would like to thank the cast and crew for their hard work and dedication!

**Z'Andre Wilkinson** (Assistant Director) is very thankful to be a part of this new upcoming play. Growing up in the Caribbean was very difficult for this aspiring actor/filmmaker, as it is not a well known location for film and television. He moved to the US to live his dream of being a part of the entertainment industry. Z'Andre would like to thank all members of *Elsker & Kemi* for allowing him to be a part of such an amazing play.

**John Willis Jr.** (Noah) was previously seen in the Albany High School theater production of *Sister Act* as an ensemble member and had fun dancing and singing along with the rest of the cast. He is excited to be participating in the Albany High School Short Play Fest.

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**Jordan Goldman**  
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Innovation Academy Principal

**Shermaine Moore-Boakye**  
Citizenship Asst. Principal

**Michael Lopez**  
Discovery Asst. Principal

**Kenneth Klein**  
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**Michaela Miranda**  
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Abrookin Principal & CTE

**Alex LaCoss**  
Leadership Asst. Principal

**Marilyn Jones-Oliver, Ed.D.**  
Abrookin Asst. Principal & CTE

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APSTA wishes our students  
great success with the  
show, and congratulates you  
on your outstanding talents!

**Let your light shine for  
the whole world to see!**

# CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to our talented student playwrights, directors, cast, crew and faculty advisers for an outstanding production!

Student voice is so important, and we are thrilled to see it front and center in the Albany High Theater Ensemble!

We are so proud of you all!



Best wishes from the  
City School District  
of Albany Board of  
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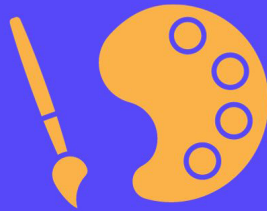
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**WARBINGER**  
PRESENTS...

DECEMBER SEVENTH — DECEMBER SIXTEENTH

# MRS. PACKARD

ALBANY BARN      BY EMILY MANN      7:30 PM  
DIRECTED BY CHRIS FOSTER



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Melissa & Peter Lacijan  
Mike & Kristy Avery

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ALBANY HIGH THEATER ENSEMBLE PRESENTS

The  
**25<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Putnam County  
Spelling Bee**

**MARCH 8-10**


FRIDAY & SATURDAY 6:30 PM

SUNDAY 2 PM

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$15

STUDENTS & SENIORS: \$5



 albanyhightheaterensemble

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