

MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC MUSICAL THEATRE

Liza Gennaro, Associate Dean and Director

THE 2021 FRED EBB MUSICAL IN DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Reading of
STARBLASTERS

Benjamin Velez, Composer & Lyricist

Katie Hathaway, Book Writer

Jaki Bradley, Director

Banji Aborisade, Choreographer

David Gardos, Music Director

Saturday, May 15, 2021 | 7:30 PM

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WELCOME FROM LIZA GENNARO, ASSOCIATE DEAN AND DIRECTOR OF MSM MUSICAL THEATRE

I'm excited to welcome you to *STARBLASTERS*, MSM Musical Theatre's fourth virtual musical. Our writers, director, choreographer, musical director, stage manager, COVID compliance officers, production staff, film crew, and incredible student crews have made this virtual performance possible.

Following the lead of the theatre industry we've adapted to a new medium and adjusted our creative impulses from stage to screen. With the virtual process MSM MT turned pandemic challenges into positive and valuable learning experiences for our students, introducing them to self-recording techniques and preparing them to engage in a transformed industry.

All productions have been filmed following all MSM COVID-19 regulations, including physical distancing, room vacancy, and face-covering requirements. Some scenes include multiple students without face coverings who are made to appear together through video editing. Students appearing without face coverings recorded themselves alone in a room, in their homes, and/or in accordance with local safety protocols in their location.

We hope you enjoy the show!

Be well,
Liza Gennaro

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Starblasters was originally slated to rehearse beginning in May 2020. When that (and everything) changed, the creative team started talking about what a digital production of the show could look like. What would be most useful for this new musical? And what would be most exciting for the students at MSM?

Through our conversations, we decided to present something different: three separate projects that make up the *Starblasters* experience. First, we collaborated with the students to create a series of short videos and TikToks riffing on the characters, themes, and world of the musical; then, we shot a musical film set to one of the show's big production numbers. We rehearsed, recorded, and performed in person (following COVID protocols) and worked with a professional film crew, dancing in Sakura Park for one very long shoot day. And lastly, we rehearsed a reading of the musical in its entirety, using a combination of prerecorded demos and songs performed live.

While nothing can replace the thrill of live theater--and I think the last year has reinforced that more than ever--the talent, commitment, and rigor of the cast made this a very special experience, and one the creative team is grateful for. In many ways, *Starblasters* is a musical about celebrating what you have and the people you get to share it with, and from the cast and creative team, we're very happy to share this show with you. Enjoy!

—Jaki Bradley, Director

CAST

Freddie

Bridget

Neil

Nacho

Erica

Ted

Kaylin

Nora

Dani

Cameron Anthony

Aubrey Kirk

William “Bill” FitzPatrick

Samuel Dickin

Alysia Velez

Steven Martella

Kianna Kelly-Futch

Sarah Thorn

Alexia Sanchez

Ensemble

Olivia Bleak

Paul Esswein

Alesha Jeter

Pantelis Karastamatis

Kianna Kelly-Futch

Steven Martella

Joey Miceli

Andrew Morgan

Alexia Sanchez

Sarah Thorn

Students in this performance are supported by the *Helen Fabnestock Hubbard Family Scholarship*.

We are grateful to the generous donors who made these scholarships possible. For information on establishing a named scholarship at Manhattan School of Music, please contact Susan Madden, Vice President for Advancement, at 917-493-4115 or smadden@msmnyc.edu.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Boomer Voicemail: Special Snowflake

Boomer Chorus

Toasting: To Papi!

Nacho, Bridget, Neil, Freddie, and Erica

Boomer Voicemail: Call Me!

Boomer Chorus

Freddie's Song

Freddie

Prom was a Promise

Freddie, Erica, and Company

Tearing the Tickets

Nacho, Neil, and Boomer Chorus

Think About That

Boomer Chorus, Freddie, Bridget, and Neil

Bridget Michelle Jessica

Bridget

Boomer Voicemail: Freddie's Dad

Freddie's Dad

Mi Princesa

Erica

Blast Away

Nacho, Freddie, Bridget, and Neil

Rig the Game

Nacho and Boomer Chorus

ACT II

Erica's Nightmare

Erica and Company

Tearing the Tickets Reprise

Boomer Chorus

Erica Save Me

Freddie and Neil

Boomer Voicemail: Kicking You Out

Boomer Chorus

Bridget Michelle Jessica Reprise

Bridget

Two Suns Setting

Nacho

Shoulda Woulda Coulda

Nacho, Bridget, Neil, Freddie, and Erica

Boomer Voicemail: Love You Mucho

Boomer Chorus

Three Suns Setting

Company

MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM

Benjamin Velez, Composer & Lyricist

Benjamin Velez is a composer/lyricist and Columbia graduate (114th Varsity Show), born and raised in Miami, Florida. A proud member of the Advanced BMI workshop (2012 Harrington Award), his work has been at MTF, Ars Nova, NAMT, NEO, the Civilians, 4@15, and Joe's Pub. He was a Sundance Artist at the UCROSS Foundation, and his musical *Afterland*, written with Katie Hathaway, was developed at the Yale Institute for Music Theater and the York Theater. He developed *STARBLASTERS*—also with Hathaway—at Dixon Place and Manhattan School of Music (2021). His musical *Borderline*, written with Aryanna Garber, won the 2018 Weston Playhouse New Musical Award and opened the 2019 O'Neill Musical Theater Conference. He was a 2018–19 Dramatist Guild Foundation Fellow, the 2019 Fred Ebb Award Winner, a 2020 Thom Thomas Award winner, and a 2020 Jonathan Larson Grant recipient. His musical *Kiss My Aztec*, written with John Leguizamo, Tony Taccone, and David Kamp, was developed at the Public Theater (2018), before premiering at Berkeley Rep (2019), followed by a run at the La Jolla Playhouse (2019).

Katie Hathaway, Book Writer

Katie Hathaway is a writer and composer based in Brooklyn. Her plays and musicals have been performed and developed at Ars Nova, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Clubbed Thumb, New Dramatists, the Bushwick Starr, Dixon Place, the Prelude Festival, New York Musical Theatre Festival, Joe's Pub, Johnny Mercer Songwriters Institute, NYU, the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop, and the Yale Institute for Music Theater. A MacDowell Colony fellow and New Georges affiliated artist, she is an alumna of Barnard College and received her MFA in playwriting from Brooklyn College. She is also a music teacher at Saint Ann's School.

Jaki Bradley, Director

Theater and film director Jaki Bradley's recent projects include *White Noise* (Berkeley Rep), *Radio Island*, *Good Men Wanted* (New York Stage and Film), *House Plant*, *1969: The Second Man* (New York Theater Workshop: Next Door), *MamaMetallica* (Denver Center), and *Playing Hot* (Ars Nova/Pipeline Theater). She has developed and presented work with the Public, Williamstown, Soho Rep, Clubbed Thumb, the O'Neill, and Arena Stage. She has been a member of the Civilians R&D Group, an Artist-in-Residence at Ars Nova, a Drama League Artist-in-Residence and TV/Film Fellow, a member of the Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab, the Williamstown Directing Corps, and Lincoln Center Director's Lab, and a U.S. Fulbright Scholar. In film, her work has screened at BFI Flare, Frameline, NewFest, Chain (Best Director of Narrative Short), and NCGLFF (Jury Award: Best U.S. Film). She has written screenplays for Netflix and Paramount and recently sold a series to FX. Her debut screenplay, *Detox*, made the 2019 HIT List and Blood List before selling to XYZ Films. www.jakibradley.com

Banji Aborisade, Choreographer

Banji Aborisade is directing upcoming productions of *Hairspray* (National Tour, Associate Director) and *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* (Forestburgh Playhouse, Director). Other credits include *SC7NARIO* on BroadwayHD (Director/Choreographer/Writer); *Fun Factory* and *While You Were Dreaming* (Director/Choreographer); *Urinetown* off-Broadway and *SYNC: The Dance Series* (Choreographer); *Shout: The Mod Musical* at Syracuse University (Director); *How to Load A Musket* at 59e59 (Associate Director); *Good Grief* at the Vineyard Theatre (Assistant Director); and *Soft Power* at the Public Theater (2020–21 Stage Directors and Choreographers Observership Program).

David Gardos, Music Director

On Broadway David Gardos has been Associate Music Director for *Falsettos*, *Finding Neverland*, and *Chaplin* (r); Assistant Conductor for *Side Show* and *Big Fish*; and Sub Conductor for *Hamilton*. Regional/NY Music Supervisor/Music Director credits include *Darling Grenadine* (Roundabout Underground, Goodspeed-at-Chester), *Kiss My Aztec!* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse), *Borderline*, *The Family Resemblance* (The O'Neill Theater Center), *The Boy Who Danced On Air* (Abingdon Theatre), *My Paris* (Long Wharf Theater; Goodspeed-at-Chester), *Ever After* (Papermill Playhouse), *Nickel Mines* (NYMF). He received an M.Mus in orchestral conducting at the University of Cincinnati (CCM) and a B.Mus in music education at the University of Sydney.

Olivia Mancini, Production Stage Manager

New York City based stage manager Olivia Mancini received a BFA from Purchase College in 2017. NYC selected credits include *Bad Penny* (Production Stage Manager, The Flea Theatre), *Everything Is Okay* (Production Stage Manager, NYMF 2019), *Spellbound!* (Production Stage Manager, Open Jar Studios), *We Are The Tigers* (Script PA/Stagehand, Theatre 80), *In the Closet* (Assistant Stage Manager, Studio Theatre), Manhattan School of Music PreCollege Musical Theatre and Opera Classes 2019 (Production Stage Manager, Ades Performance Space), and *The Wild Party* (Production Stage Manager, Riverside Theater).

STARBLASTERS PERSONNEL

OPERA AND MUSICAL THEATRE PERSONNEL

Christina Teichroew, Managing Director

Kathryn Miller, Assistant Managing Director

Erin Reppenhagen, Associate

Josi Petersen Brown, Assistant

PRODUCTION STAFF

Brittany Crowell, Production Manager

Emily Cauthorne, Associate Production Manager

Mac Whiting, Production Management Assistant

Lauren Adleman, Tyler Danhaus, Tyler Donahue, Leslie Gray, Cynthia Gray, Benjamin Hawkins, Olivia Mancini, Ryan O'Donnell, Caitlyn Piccirillo, Mac Whiting, COVID Compliance Officers

STUDENT CREW

Maya Mills, Assistant Director

Bobby Leaks, Assistant Choreographer

MSM MUSICAL THEATRE

Manhattan School of Music, with its 100 years of excellence and its location in New York City, a veritable hub of musical theatre, is an ideal institution for a world-class musical theatre program. Today's contemporary musical theatre is exploding with fresh ideas, possibilities, and opportunities; musical theater graduates are entering a thriving art form. Broadway is booming with record high attendance and employment opportunities are plentiful. While acting, voice, and dance remain the cornerstones of musical theatre training, contemporary performers must also be trained beyond the "triple threat" model. Now more than ever multifaceted musical theatre artists are in demand. Devised practice workshops and dance labs require performers to be creative contributors to project development. In addition to learning the essential skills—to sing, dance, and act—MSM Musical Theatre students are encouraged to develop their artistic interests and are given the opportunity to investigate areas beyond performing, including directing, choreographing, writing, and composing.

The MSM Musical Theatre faculty is a stellar collection of artist-educators who combine exemplary teaching skills with the highest level of professional know-how. We embrace individuality and honor each student's journey. At MSM we are passionate about the arts and the next generation of musical theatre artists.

Liza Gennaro, Associate Dean and Director

David Loud, Program Music Director

Enrique Brown, Academic and Artistic Assistant

FACULTY

Mana Allen, Musical Theatre Performance Technique

Richard Baskin, Ensemble Voice

Nate Bertone, Intro to Theatrical Design

Tanya Birl, Senior Showcase

Enrique Brown, Musical Theatre Dance, Musical Theatre Career Management

Claudia Catania, Voice

Judith Clurman, Voice/Ensemble Singing

Carl Cofield, Acting V

Marshall Davis Jr., Tap

Erin Dilly, Scene to Song

Boyd Gaines, Advanced Acting

Andy Gale, Acting: Scene Study, Script Analysis

Liza Gennaro, Freshman Seminar, Musical Theatre Career Management

Andrew Gerle, Music Theory

Randy Graff, Acting the Song/Audition Techniques

Andrea Green, Voice

Yehuda Hyman, Devised Practice

Shawn Kaufmann, Intro to Theatrical Design

David Loud, Musical Theatre Performance Technique, Musical Theatre: Exploring the Art Form

Sue Makkoo, Intro to Theatrical Design

Or Matias, Musical Theatre Lab, Senior Showcase

Samuel McKelton, Voice

Robin Morse, Acting I, 2, 3

Brianna Poh, Intro to Theatrical Design

Nikkole Salter, Speech

Shane Schag, Music Theory

Scott Stauffer, Intro to Theatrical Design

Don Stephenson, Acting for Camera

Bob Stillman, Voice

Rachel Tucker, Ballet

MSM PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTION OPERATIONS

Henry Valoris, Dean of Performance and Production Operations

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES

Katharine Dryden, Managing Director

Alejandro López-Samamé, Manager of Orchestral Operations and the Orchestral Performance Program

Calvin Johnson, Manager of Jazz Operations

Jon Clancy, Instrumental Ensembles Associate

Julie Dombroski, Instrumental Ensembles Associate

Hannah Marks, Instrumental Ensembles Associate

Matthew Ward, Percussion Operations Manager

OPERA AND MUSICAL THEATRE

Christina Teichroew, Managing Director

Kathryn Miller, Assistant Managing Director

Erin Reppenhagen, Associate

Josi Petersen Brown, Assistant

PERFORMANCE LIBRARY

Manly Romero, Performance Librarian

PIANO TECHNICAL SERVICES

Israel Schossev, Director

Agim Kola, Shop Manager

Victor Madorsky, Performance Tuner/Technician

Hide Onishi, Chief Concert Technician

Richard Short, Maintenance Manager

PRODUCTION

Brianna Poh, Associate Director

Elizabeth Ramsay, Interim Associate Production Manager

Brittany Crowell, Production Manager, Opera and Musical Theatre

Emily Cauthorne, Associate Production Manager, Opera and Musical Theatre

Andres Diaz Jr., Production Supervisor

Keri Bush, Production Coordinator

Alexis Caldwell, Production Coordinator

Tyler Donahue, Production Coordinator

Dash Lea, Production Coordinator

Pamela Pangaro, Lead Technician

SCHEDULING AND PATRON SERVICES

Devon Kelly, Manager

Luke Breton, Associate

Ramon Tenefrancia, Associate

THE ORTO CENTER FOR DISTANCE LEARNING AND RECORDING ARTS

Chris Shade, Director

David Marsh, Program Manager

Dan Rorke, Chief Recording Engineer

Kevin Bourassa, Recording Engineer

Corey Mahaney, Recording Engineer

Mohit Diskalkar, Network Systems Engineer

Yue Mu, Instructional Designer

Roan Ma, Recording Services Coordinator

Graceon Challenger, Chief Maintenance Technician

ABOUT MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today MSM is recognized for its more than 960 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from more than 50 countries and nearly all 50 states; its innovative curricula and world-renowned artist-teacher faculty that includes musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Met Orchestra, and the top ranks of the jazz and Broadway communities; and a distinguished community of accomplished, award-winning alumni working at the highest levels of the musical, educational, cultural, and professional worlds.

The School is dedicated to the personal, artistic, and intellectual development of aspiring musicians, from its Precollege students through those pursuing doctoral studies. Offering classical, jazz, and musical theatre training, MSM grants a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. True to MSM's origins as a music school for children, the Precollege program continues to offer superior music instruction to 475 young musicians between the ages of 5 and 18. The School also serves some 2,000 New York City schoolchildren through its Arts-in-Education Program, and another 2,000 students through its critically acclaimed Distance Learning Program.

Your gift helps a young artist reach for the stars!

To enable Manhattan School of Music to continue educating and inspiring generations of talented students and audiences alike, please consider making a charitable contribution today.

Contact the Advancement Office at 917-493-4434 or visit msmnyc.edu/support

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