

BAM

Brooklyn Academy of Music Peter Jay Sharp Building 30 Lafayette Ave Brooklyn, NY 11217—1486

July 18, 2024

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Photos Available: [*Safety Not Guaranteed*](#)

BAM PRESENTS

SAFETY NOT GUARANTEED

Based on the film written by Derek Connolly

Music and lyrics by Ryan Miller

Book by Nick Blaemire

Directed by Lee Sunday Evans

FULL COMPANY ANNOUNCED.

Performances begin at BAM's Harvey Theater Sep 17, 2024

Limited Engagement through Oct 20, 2024

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

July 18, 2024/Brooklyn, NY—BAM (The Brooklyn Academy of Music) announces the full company for *Safety Not Guaranteed*, directed by **Lee Sunday Evans** at the BAM Harvey Theater beginning September 17 through October 20, 2024.

Nkeki Obi-Melekwe and **Taylor Trench** lead the cast as Darius and Kenneth, respectively. They are joined by **Pomme Koch** as Jeff, **Rohan Kymal** as Arnau, **Ashley Pérez Flanagan** as Liz, and **John-Michael Lyles** as Tristan.

Adapted for the stage, this new musical reimagines Derek Connolly's 2012 award-winning indie film featuring new songs by Guster's **Ryan Miller**. The story follows Darius, a low-level journalist who is assigned to report on a local classified ad offering the opportunity to go back in time, and the complicated relationship that ensues. From Obie Award-winning theater director **Lee Sunday Evans** (*Home, Farmhouse/Whorehouse*) comes a unique live interpretation of the beloved indie movie, adapted for the stage by **Nick Blaemire** (*Glory Days, Space Dogs*).

"Building on our intention to contribute to the vitality of the American theater through investment in new work, we're honored to welcome such a talented creative team and cast to BAM's uniquely beautiful Harvey Theater," says BAM Artistic Director, **Amy Cassello**.

"I've been a fan of the film for years and always thought it could work as a musical, but the way it's come together has been a series of serendipitous moments you can't plan. Chance meetings with Ryan Miller and Peter Saraf and a lunch with Lee Sunday Evans sparked fast friendships and playful collaborations. And this wonderful cast and band have elevated the show beyond my wildest dreams. They're all at the top of their game, and to be performing in the BAM Harvey, my favorite theater in the world, is a dream come true. I can't wait to show New York what we've made," says writer **Nick Blaemire**.

Safety Not Guaranteed features set design by the award-winning **Krit Robinson**, costume design is by the award-winning **Sarita Fellows**, lighting design by Obie award winner **Reza Behjat**, and sound design by multi-Tony nominee **Drew Levy**. Assistant direction is by **Isabel Perry**, casting is by **Taylor Williams, CSA**, **Steve Cuffio** is the illusionist, and fight direction is by **Drew Leary**.

Safety Not Guaranteed is stage managed by **Alyssa K. "AK" Howard** and assistant stage managed by **Alfredo Macias**.

Tickets are available at BAM.org or by calling BAM Ticket Services 718.636.4100. Tickets start at \$35.

CREATIVE TEAM

NICK BLAEMIRE (book) is a Brooklyn-based writer and actor. He wrote the score to the Broadway one-night sensation rock musical *Glory Days* (book by James Gardiner), and has written book, music and lyrics to six other original musicals: *A Little More Alive* (premiered at Williamstown Theater Festival), *Soon* (premiered at Signature Theater), *Fallout* (with Kyle Jarrow), *Edge of the World* (with Ethan Slater), *Quixote* (with Daniel J. Watts) and *Space Dogs* (with Van Hughes, premiered at MCC Theater). In addition to adapting *Safety Not Guaranteed*, he wrote the book to Disney's *Descendants*, and is writing the book and new songs for the stage adaptation of the film *August Rush*. Nick has released three pop albums, all available online. As an actor, he most recently played Adolph Green in Bradley Cooper's Leonard Bernstein biopic *Maestro* for Netflix. A University of Michigan graduate, he is repped by CAA, A&R and Writ Large.

LEE SUNDAY EVANS (director) is an Obie award-winning director and choreographer and was recently appointed Artistic Director of Waterwell. With Waterwell, she directed *The Courtroom* named (*The New York Times*' Best Theater of 2019) and led the creation of *The Flores Exhibits*, a series of videos in which artists, advocates, lawyers, and immigrants read testimony of children held in detention facilities at the U.S./Mexico Border. Her work has been seen at BAM, The Public Theater, Lincoln Center, Playwrights Horizons, Steppenwolf, The Atlantic, WP Theater, The Play Company, Juilliard, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Watermill, Sundance Theater Lab, Clubbed Thumb and New Georges among others. She additionally creates original ensemble-devised performance work with CollaborationTown. She received the 2017 SDC Breakout Award and the Vineyard Theatre's 2016 Susan Stroman Award.

RYAN MILLER (music and lyrics) began his artistic career in a dorm room at Tufts University in 1991 as a founding member and lead singer of the band Guster. This year, Guster released their 9th studio album *Ooh La La*, toured the country on their "We Also Have Eras Tour," and performed sold-out shows at the Ryman Auditorium, Red Rocks Amphitheater (with the Colorado Symphony), and the Ford Amphitheater (with the Los Angeles Philharmonic). In 2012, Ryan wrote the score for *Safety Not Guaranteed* which began his career as a film and television composer. He has since scored 14 feature films including *In a World*, *Kings of Summer*, *Tig*, *Something from Tiffany's*, *How It Ends*, and *Babes*. Ryan also moonlights as a writer (*The Atlantic*, *Seven Days*), television host (Vermont PBS' *Makin' Friends with Ryan Miller* and *Bardo*), and actor (starring in the upcoming feature film *The Wake*). He lives in the woods of Williston, Vermont with his wife, two kids, and the best dog ever, Sebastian.

CAST

ASHLEY PÉREZ FLANAGAN (Liz) has appeared on Broadway in *Freestyle Love Supreme* and *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*. Her Off-Broadway work includes: *The Connector* (MCC Theater); *The Beautiful Lady* (La Mama); *Morning//Mourning* (HERE); *Oratorio For Living Things* (Ars Nova, Lortel Award); *Freestyle Love Supreme* (Ars Nova); *In The Green* (LCT3, Lortel Award nomination); *The Lucky Ones* (Ars Nova); *Hadestown* (NYTW). She has originated roles in the world premieres of *Cowboy Bob* (Alley Theatre); *The Tattooed Lady* (Philadelphia Theatre Company, Barrymore Award nomination), *Life After* (Goodman Theatre), *A Crossing* (Barrington Stage Company), *Prometheus Bound* (A.R.T.). Additional regional engagements include *Moby-Dick* (A.R.T.), *The Great Comet of 1812* (A.R.T.) *Evita*, *West Side Story*, and *The Sound of Music*. She has performed in concerts at Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Joe's Pub, and 54 Below. Film: *The Kitchen*.

POMME KOCH (Jeff) has appeared in Broadway's *The Band's Visit*. His Off-Broadway and regional work includes *How Long Blues* (Twyla Tharp), *Baghdaddy*, *Becket*, *The Last Supper*, engagements at La Jolla Playhouse, Denver Center, George Street Playhouse, O'Neill Center, A.C.T. San Francisco, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Round House Theatre, Theater J, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Marin Theatre Company, Folger Shakespeare Library, Studio

Theatre, Theatre Calgary, and the San Francisco Playhouse. Koch's film and TV credits include *Daddy*, *WeCrashed*, *Law & Order*, *Blue Bloods*, and *House of Cards*. www.pommekoch.com

ROHAN KYMAL (Arnau) is an NYC-based actor and musician. His theater credits include originating the role of Bob in *The Fabulous Lipitones* (Goodspeed and George Street Playhouse), *Private Party* (The Public), *All the Rats and Rags* (3LD), *Red Wednesday* (New Ohio Theatre), and *Reality Show* (Madison Square Garden). Kymal's film and television credits include *Master of None*, *+ 1*, *Newlyweeds*, and *Bull*. He was a former touring and recording vocalist for Shankar Tucker's Shrutibox. Kymal is in the midst of an entrepreneurial venture which aims to build a decentralized streaming network for indie and art house cinema. He is a Sundance Catalyst Fellow.

JOHN-MICHAEL LYLES (Tristan) originated two roles on Broadway: Thought 3 in *A Strange Loop* (Obie-Winning) and Eli, in *The Heart of Rock & Roll*. He's also been seen Off-Broadway in *Sweeney Todd* (Barrow), *The Flick* (Barrow), *1776* (Encores), *Love Life* (Encores), *This Ain't No Disco* (Atlantic), *Big River* (Encores), *Brooklynite* (Vineyard) and *Jasper in Deadland* (Prospect). His film debut was alongside Alec Baldwin in *Blind*, and he's guest starred in *The Other Two*, *Chicago PD*, and *NCIS: New Orleans*. Regionally, he played Dickon in CTG's *The Secret Garden*, originated the role of Toby in *Bliss* at the 5th Avenue, starred in Second City's production of *The Art of Falling*, and was deemed a "fleet and winning phenom on stage" for his performance as Pharus in the Guthrie's *Choir Boy*. He's a Vivace Award-winning composer/librettist and wrote additional music for Second Stage's *We're Gonna Die!*. www.john-michaellyles.com / @johnmichael_lyles

NKEKI OBI-MELEKWE (Darius) made her Broadway debut as Tina Turner in *Tina - The Tina Turner Musical*, after starring in the West End production. She recently starred in the new musical *Redwood* opposite Idina Menzel at the La Jolla Playhouse. Additional theatre credits include originating roles in several musicals such as Duncan Sheik and Steven Sater's *Alice by Heart* (MCC) and Jerry Mitchell's *Half Time* (Paper Mill Playhouse). Her television credits include a series regular role on Antoine Fuqua's *King Shaka*, as well as appearing in *Bull* (CBS) and *SMILF* (Showtime). Nkeki is a graduate of the University of Michigan.

TAYLOR TRENSCH (Kenneth) was last seen Off-Broadway in *The Seven Year Disappear* at The New Group opposite Cynthia Nixon. He has appeared on Broadway in *Camelot*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Hello Dolly!*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, *Matilda the Musical*, and *Wicked*. Additional Off-Broadway credits include *Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors*, *Bare*, and *Rent*. Trench made his professional debut in the first national tour of *Spring Awakening*. He has acted in world premieres at Pioneer Theatre Company, Dallas Theater Center, Williamstown Theatre Festival, La Jolla Playhouse, and Barrington Stage Company. Trench's film and TV credits include *Your Monster* (in theatres October 25), *Things Like This*, *Law & Order: SVU*, and *Evil*.

Credits

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