

LOBBY HERO



Drama by KENNETH LONERGAN

Directed by GEORGE POPOVICH



FEBRUARY 10-13, 17-20, 2022

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LOBBY HERO

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR, SET DESIGN
AND PROPS

George Popovich

PRODUCER

Laura Croff

STAGE MANAGER

Nick Lemmer

COSTUMES

Rachel Kay

LIGHTING DESIGN

Joseph Dickson

SOUND DESIGN

Leon Green

SET DESIGN

Leroy Cupp

SCENIC ARTIST

Aja Jenks

ASSISTANT SCENIC ARTIST

Travis Williams

SET CONSTRUCTION

**Tom Ferris, Bob Nees,
Leon Green, George Popovich**

PUBLICITY AND
ENGAGEMENT REP

Sarah Hayner

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

O'Leary Paint Company and Jennifer Popovich

Lobby Hero is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

WARNING: This play contains mature language and themes and may not be suitable for all audiences.

CAST

JEFF, a uniformed security guard

Ayden Soupal

WILLIAM, his captain

Ndegwa McCloud

BILL, a uniformed policeman

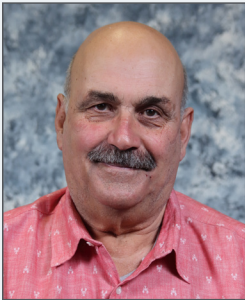
Andrew Stewart

DAWN, his rookie partner

Rachel Daugherty

SETTING: The lobby of an older high-rise apartment building in Manhattan, and the street outside. The year: 1999, mid-November. The action occurs over four successive late nights.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Most of us would like to believe we have our moral compass set on the correct path: that if we are faced with choosing between right and wrong, we make the right choice. But as we see in our current political, moral, and sociological landscape, the lines between wrong and right are often unclear, aided by the media who push their own agenda and alternate facts on society.

Set in 1999 in New York City in a lobby of an apartment building that is past its prime, we are thrust into the moral dilemmas of a group of people who are accustomed to their lives being simple and direct. Which one of them (if any!) will make the right choice?

I would like to thank this awesome group of actors, designers, and craft persons for dedicating their time and talent to this show and for Riverwalk for inviting me to direct it.

So the question is: If you had two choices that were equally right when considered separately, but polar moral opposites when considered together, *which would YOU choose?*

— **George Popovich**

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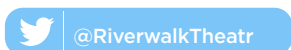
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Our current lobby artist is painter **Jackie Borszich**. Her works will be on display through March 31, 2022.

“Inspiration comes from the world around me as I learn to see things through an artist’s eye—color, texture, line, value—and convey that through my work. I try to emphasize the subtle parts of the whole of the image, the light upon the subject, and the intricacies and texture of objects to give the viewer a closer look at what is easily passed by or not appreciated.”

midmichiganartguild.org/borszich



LOBBY HERO

CAST & PRODUCTION TEAM



Rachel Daugherty (DAWN) – Rachel is so happy to be back on the Riverwalk stage. After studying theatre in college, Rachel has been excited to find a place like Riverwalk that puts such a strong emphasis on storytelling and building something beautiful together. She has previously been seen with Riverwalk in *Unnecessary Farc*e as “Billie Dwyer”, a cast member in *All Together Now*, and virtually in *A Doll’s House* as “Nora Helmer”. Rachel would like to thank the cast and crew for being such a kind and energetic team. She would also like to thank her husband, Ian, for being so supportive in all her creative endeavors. Enjoy the show!



Ndegwa McCloud (WILLIAM) – Ndegwa is ecstatic to be performing on a stage again! This is his first stage show in two years other than a staged reading of *Vodka* this past summer. You may recognize Ndegwa as “Kenyatta” from LCC’s production of *Sunset Baby*, “Avery” from *The Flick* at Peppermint Creek, or as “Toby” in Riverwalk’s production of *A Behanding in Spokane*. He would like to thank his friends and family for their continued support of his acting career.



Ayden Soupal (JEFF) – Ayden has been involved with theatre for a little over eight years now. He started at All-of-us Express and has since worked with various local companies, acting in more than 20 shows. Some notable credits include “Hally” in *Master Harold...and the Boys* (Riverwalk), “Max” in *Bright Star* (Peppermint Creek), “Hank” in *Marvin’s Room* (Lebowsky Center), and “The Baker” in *Into the Woods* (Holt High School). He wants to thank his family for their continued support, the wonderful cast and crew of this show, and all of the directors and teachers who have inspired him throughout the years to continue to create art. Thank you for coming to see the show and supporting live theatre!



Andrew Stewart (BILL) – Andrew is ecstatic to be making his debut at Riverwalk! His past credits include “John Proctor” in *The Crucible*, “Roy Hubley” in *Plaza Suite*, “Launcelot Gobbo” in *The Merchant of Venice*, and “Duke of Orleans” in *Henry V*. He is proud to work at Niowave, where everyone calls him “Stew”. Andrew is beyond grateful to director George Popovich for this opportunity and is honored to be able to work with such a gifted group of people.

Leroy Cupp (SET DESIGN) – Leroy has volunteered at Riverwalk for approximately 24 years and served on the Board of Directors for about 14 years. Currently he heads up the scene shop, scheduling set builds and building maintenance. He has built sets for many of Riverwalk’s performances and is a past recipient of Riverwalk’s President Award, Black Box Award, many back stage awards, and several awards from other area theatres. He wishes Riverwalk many years of success.

Joseph Dickson (LIGHTING DESIGNER) – Joseph is an active local actor and designer, and is always thrilled to be working at Riverwalk. Recent local lighting credits include: *Great American Trailer Park Musical*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Indecent*, *Matt and Ben*, and *Telling: Lansing*. Joseph is also the Executive Director of Over the Ledge Theatre Co. Special thanks to Aunt Alice for having supported him in all things, and to you for supporting the arts.

Tom Ferris (SET DESIGN) – Tom has been involved with Community Circle Players for many years and facilitated the organization’s transition from the Okemos Barn Theatre to Riverwalk. He is a past RWT Board President and continues to support RWT in several capacities including designing lights, designing and building sets, producing and directing shows, managing the website and electronic sign, and serving on the fundraising, building and Costume Shop committees. Tom will direct the final show of Season 33, *The Revolutionists*.

Leon Green (SOUND DESIGN) – Leon is a sound engineer/audio technician and all-around volunteer. He has most recently designed sound for *Doubt*, *Holiday Cabaret*, *You’re A Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Pippin*, *Noises Off*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Bud Not Buddy*, and *Lily the Felon’s Daughter*, and was co-sound designer for *White Buffalo*. He has also provided sound design and set-construction support on *The Emperor’s New Clothes*, *The Home Team*, *Wonder of the World*, and *Superior Donuts*. Leon is a member of the Riverwalk Board and serves on our Tech Committee.

Aja Jenks (SCENIC ARTIST) – Aja has been involved in many aspects of the Lansing community theatre scene since 2016. She most recently worked as the Set Designer/Scenographer of *Les Misérables* at DeWitt High School in 2021. She also worked as the Set Designer and Scenographer in many of Riverwalk’s productions including *Pippin*, *Hairspray*, and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. For her day job, Aja currently is living her dream as the art teacher at Red Cedar Elementary in East Lansing.



Photos by Ariniko O'Meara
Ariniko Artistry • @arinikoartistry

"I was amazed to find this show premiered in 2001! Its themes, messages, and characters are extremely relevant to our current political landscape. We are setting the show in its original time period, so the audience can make comparisons for themselves. The audience will definitely see themselves in Lobby Hero. Lonergan's characters are (for the most part) decent people who are thrust into a situation where emotions come into conflict with principles. The universality of this play is incredible." —George Popovich

"Kenneth Lonergan's characters are what made me want to audition. They're all so complex and colorful. The moral issues that these characters have to contend with is so compelling, and being a part of that process of bringing it to an audience is always a joy." —Ndegwa McCloud

"I've really enjoyed getting to work with a cast of people who like to dig deep into a script and get to the root of the characters. It's been fun to discuss acting methods while building an important story together." —Rachel Daugherty

Rachel Kay (COSTUMER) – Welcome back to live theatre! *Lobby Hero* is Rachel's seventh time costuming in Lansing-area theatre. Recently her costuming work appeared in *All Together Now* and *Sweat*. *Lobby Hero* is close to her heart as her mother worked in law enforcement.

Nick Lemmer (STAGE MANAGER) – Nick is thrilled to be returning to Riverwalk to work on such a thought-provoking and relevant story. He feels thankful for the support and love of his family and friends and for everyone who's taking the time to join us in the theatre.

Bob Nees (SET CONSTRUCTION) – Bob has built sets for *Doubt*, *Noises Off*, *Spamalot*, *Bud Not Buddy*, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *The Home Team*, *She Loves Me*, and many more at Riverwalk, and elsewhere. He has won five Barney Awards and two Thespies, plus many LCP Player awards. Bob taught set building for Okemos High School from 1996–2000. He regularly helps with our maintenance and improvement projects.

Dr. George Popovich (DIRECTOR, SET DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION, PROPS) – George was the full-time Director of Theatre at Henry Ford College in Dearborn, Michigan from 1985–2017. He retired in 2017. He received B.A. and M.A. degrees in English from the California State University and a Secondary Teaching Credential and Community College Teaching Credential from the California State University. He received an MA in Theatre from the University of Texas and a Ph.D. in Theatre from the Ohio State University. He has taught secondary school full-time in California, Ohio, and Texas and University and Community College in California, Texas, Ohio and Michigan. He is a graduate of South Coast Repertory Acting Conservatory, a Tony award winner for best regional theatre in the United States. Post retirement productions include *Almost Maine* (Community Theatre of Howell), *Shakespeare in Love* (Peppermint Creek), *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Community Theatre of Howell), *Wait Until Dark* (Community Theatre of Howell) and *Sweat* (Riverwalk). He is delighted to direct again at Riverwalk and hopes you enjoy this insightful play.

Travis Williams (ASSISTANT SCENIC ARTIST) – Travis is thrilled to be back working on another Riverwalk production. He has been seen onstage in *Rent*, *Grease*, *Spamalot*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, and the annual *Holiday Cabaret*. Offstage, Travis has helped paint the sets of several Riverwalk shows, including *She Loves Me*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Hairspray*, and *Pippin*. He would like to thank his friend Aja for constantly putting her faith in his artistic abilities.

SPECIAL THANKS TO



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“Sometimes we do the wrong things for the right reasons—or at least that’s what we tell ourselves. Each and every one of us has developed a set of core principles that, if followed, classifies us as a “good person.” But what happens when egos, personal ambition and emotions threaten those principles we hold so dear?”

—Gwendolyn Kochur, *Cleveland Scene*



“Lobby Hero, with much trenchant observation (and humor) about class, racism, and sexism, is very much a play of our cultural moment.” —*Pop Dose*

UPCOMING AUDITIONS: **The Revolutionists** April 3-4

More info, including show and character descriptions, can be found at riverwalktheatre.com/auditions

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COMING EVENTS

ART
by Yasmina Reza



Directed by **Scott Pohl**

APRIL 21-23 and
APRIL 28 - MAY 1, 2022

THE REVOLUTIONISTS

A comedy by Lauren Gunderson

JUNE 9-12, 16-19, 2022

Directed by Tom Ferris

BARNEY AWARDS

JUNE 29, 2022 | 7:00p

ANNUAL MEETING

JULY 9, 2022 | 1:00p

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