# BY JC LEE

OUT FRONT THEATRE COMPANY

> MARCH 12-28, 2020 #outfrontwarplay



In his Upper East Side apartment, Michael is throwing a birthday party for Harold complete with surprise gift: "Cowboy," a street hustler. As the evening wears on – fueled by drugs and alcohol – bitter, unresolved resentments among the guests come to light when a game of "Truth" goes terribly wrong.



# <image>

#### **STARRING** Gregory Piccirilli & Andy Stanesic

FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER Dave Dorrell INTIMACY DIRECTOR Mandy Mitchell **DRAMATURG** Kristopher Karcher

**COSTUME DESIGNER** Eric Griffis LIGHTING DESIGNER Lindsey Sharpless SCENIC DESIGNER Danyale Taylor

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER Abby Key ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Kait Rivas

**DIRECTOR** Justin Kalin

Originally Commissioned and Produced at The New Conservatory Theatre Center World Premiere June 2 - July 2, 2017 San Francisco, CA Ed Decker, Founder & Artistic Director

# UARDIAU Cast & Crew

**SETTING:** Mostly a backyard somewhere, sometime.

#### CAST (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

A	Gregory Piccirilli
Ρ	Andy Stanesic

#### **PRODUCTION CREW**

Director	. Justin Kalin
Production Stage Manager	Abby Key
Assistant Stage Manager	Kait Rivas
Costume Designer	Eric Griffis

Lighting Designer .....Lindsey Sharpless Scenic Designer ..... Danyale Taylor Fight Choreographer ..... Dave Dorrell Intimacy Director ...... Mandy Mithcell Dramaturg...... Diane Haymes Photography Video Production ...... Saturnblu Productions Public Relations ...... Tori Allen PR Graphic Designer .... Brandon D Hunt Designs Media & Print Partner ..... Peach Magazine ATL

#### **SPECIAL THANKS**

The Atlanta Human Society, Verde Home, Amber Bradshaw, Fred Bradshaw, Christopher Sego, Aurora Coffee, Hodgepodge Coffee, The Paideia School Pi-Tech Club, Connor Donroe-Wells, Hannah Garrett, Alex Graham, Spencer Heaberlin, Spencer Hollberg, Robin James, Lulu Javelona, Malina Jo Rodriguez, Cooper West, and Sean Zheng.

We apologize for anyone who may have been accidentally omitted from this program.



#### **Director's Note**

"Sing, goddess, of the rage of Achilles, son of Peleus, Accursed, which brought countless pains upon the Achaeans, Hurled to Hades many strong souls of heroes, Served them up as carrion for the dogs and all the birds –"

These are the opening lines of Homer's the Iliad, written somewhere around the 8th century BC. For those of us who haven't cracked open a copy recently (or didn't notice the lobby display), the Iliad chronicles a small portion of the Trojan War, a ten-year siege of the city of Troy (Ilium) by a



coalition of Greek states. The epic poem primarily focuses on the great hero Achilles, his quarrel with King Agememnon, and the battles that surround them. Achilles is the hero; physically invincible save for his iconic heel, as that was the only spot untouched by the River Styx when his mother soaked him in its waters as an infant. She meant to protect him, as it was prophesied that he would either live simply or achieve greatness at the cost of his young life. As fate would have it, Achilles became one of the fiercest Greek warriors and found himself invaluable in the siege of Troy. Achilles was not alone on the battlefield though. By his side was Patroclus, the more evenly tempered and wise counsel charged with the responsibility to act as squire to the hero. Whereas Achilles was known to treat others callously, he was notably more tender with Patroclus. It was Patroclus' demise, clad in Achilles own armor, that led Achilles into a rage and back into battle to kill Hector in the name of revenge.



We're generally taught history with a blind spot that implies (or sometimes outright states) gay people weren't there and as such, the exact nature of the relationship between Achilles and Patroclus is hotly debated. Many historians say that there was no explicit depiction of the two as lovers in the original text and as such, they simply shared a deep and meaningful friendship. Born of that ambiguity is warplay. JC Lee reimagines the story of these men in a modern context and saves us the uncertainty of their relationship. *warplay* reassures you, same sex relationships are nothing new. The dynamic between the two is not a bromance. The rage of Achilles is not fueled by the death of his closest ally; his is the searing gay rage of a lover destoryed. I don't know what is so threatening about the prospect of historical homos, but this show is a rallying cry of the standard "we're here, we're queer, get used to it". You'll see male intimacy and the toxicity that exists there. You'll see rashness, the

passion, the stupidity, the reckless vulnerability of first love. And hopefully, you'll see the power of choosing love when faced with looming horror of something on the horizon.

Justin Kalin Director



### SPECTRUM SPOTLIGHT

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Strange, homosexual things are happening at Ronald Reagan High after the suicide of Twinkie McBottoms. When Twinkie's last words are discovered-"I hate straight people"- the school counselor is thrust into action, determined to create a safe space for straight students to be themselves again. She will have to team up with the first openly gay student body president to organize a "Diversity Day" that these heterosexuals will never forget.



The Grand Transsexual Draweth Nigh aspires to be a magical trans Halloween mystery, a plea for ritual and transcendence, and an exploration of identity, authenticity, assimilation, and the ways in which we are consumed and alienated by our own desires. It follows a young gay trans man of color and three of his friends on the night when they once and for all become the devourers, not the devoured."



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#### CAST

**GREGORY PICCIRILLI** He/Him (*A*) is excited to make his Out Front Theatre debut! Previous credits include: *Angry Fags* (7 Stages), *The Electric Baby* (Weird Sisters Project), *Lizard & El Sol* (Alliance Theatre), *The Waverly Gallery* (Lean Ensemble). Thank you to Gregory's family, friends, and mentors for all of their help and their support to prepare for this show! Follow him @gregpic07 on Instagram.

ANDY STANESIC They/Them (P) is thrilled to be back on the Out Front stage! Previous Out Front Theatre credits include: Zanna, Don't!. Previous Atlanta credits: The Grown Up (Out of Box Theatre), Merrily We Roll Along (Actor's Express), One Minute Play Festival (1MPF). Education includes: Acting Internship (Actor's Express), Bachelor's Degree in Theatre (Georgia College and State University). They wish much love to this town, Atlanta, and the many people they love in it. Follow @andystanesic on Instagram.

#### PRODUCTION TEAM

JUSTIN KALIN He/Him (Director) is thrilled to be directing on Out Front's stage. He serves as the Associate Artistic Director at Out Front Theatre Company, where he oversees all things literary, casting, and development. Launched in 2018, Justin is the producer of the Spectrum Spotlight Series, a staged reading series dedicated to unproduced queer work written by Atlanta playwrights. Justin has worked as a director, producer, and dramaturg with local companies including Working Title Playwrights, Drama Tech, and Actor's Express, where he works as Casting Associate. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre from Georgia College and State University.

ABBY KEY She/Her (Production Stage Manager) is thrilled to make her Out Front Theatre and Atlanta debut! Previous NYC credits include: Between the Tigris and the Euphrates (Poetic Theatre Productions), Survey (LaGuardia PAC), and Lemon Meringue (Rich Ryan Productions, LLC). Previous Regional credits include: Nice Work If You Can Get It (Peach State Summer Theatre!), Mary Poppins (Peach State Summer Theatre!), 42nd Street (Peach State Summer Theatre!), Lombardi (Kentucky Stages), Carrie: the Musical (White Plains PAC). Much love to Benjamin for his unyielding love and support! Follow her on Instagram @stgmngr4life.

KAIT RIVAS They/Them (Assistant Stage Manager) is ecstatic to be working again with Out Front Theatre in this amazing production! Previous Out Front Theatre credits include: I Am My Own Wife, Spectrum Spotlight Series, and The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told. Upcoming: The Boys in the Band. Previous Atlanta credits include: La Gringa (Marietta's New Theatre in the Square), Entertaining Lesbians, Working the Musical, and Evil Dead the Musical (Out of Box Theatre). Follow them @kaitrivers on Instagram! Much love to the cast and crew and all my friends and family! Remember to always tell your story.

ERIC GRIFFIS He/Him (Costume

**Designer)** is thrilled to return to Out Front after designing *Christmas with the Crawfords, I Am My Own Wife, Porcelain* and *The Mystery of Love & Sex.* Eric is Professor of Costume Design at Georgia College & State University where he just wrapped the musical Heathers. Other recent work includes *The Marriage Counselor* (Birdhouse Theatre), *The Last Five Years* (Birdhouse Theatre and Theatre Macon), *Crowns* (Georgia College), and *Cabaret* (Georgia College). He has also spent many summers as Costume Craftsperson at the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. Visit ericgriffis.com to see more of his work.

**LINDSEY SHAPLESS;** She/Her (*Lighting Designer*) Out Front Theatre: Debut. Lindsey is excited *warplay* is her first show at Out Front Theatre and is happy to be a part of the team! She is a Co-Founder and Producer at Vernal & Sere Theatre where she plays the part of stage manager, lighting designer, and actress. You can check out their website at www.vernalandseretheatre.com

DANYALE TAYLOR She/Her (Scenic Designer) is proud to join Out Front Theatre Company as the Scenic Designer for this production of warplay. She is the Production Stage Manager for Working Title Playwrights. She is also the Technical Director/ Scenic Designer for The Paideia School. She has over 15 years of freelancing experience as a Technical Director, Production Manager, Master Carpenter, Scenic Designer, Lighting/Sound Designer, Scenic Artist and Stage Manager. Some of the Atlanta companies she has worked with include: Kenny Leon's True Colors, Ballethnic Dance Company, The Alliance Theatre, Aurora Theatre, Horizon Theatre, Theatre Du Reve, Area Dance, M.J.C.C.A., 7 Stages, Rialto and the Fox Theatre. Also a percussionist, she plays drums with the Seed and Feed Marching Abominables, The Atlanta Freedom Band and beats on a bucket and bottle drum set with the junkyardjug-band, Hey Cousin!

#### MANDY MITCHELL She/Her (Intimacy

Director) holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Acting/Directing from The Ohio State University, where she focused on the creation of new works and integration of new media. Mandy has worked with the RSC, The Abbey Theatre of Dublin, The SITI Group, The Alliance Theatre, The Center for Puppetry Arts. Mandy is the owner of The Charlie Group Atlanta where she focuses on teaching acting for the camera. She has coached several students into Broadway and Regional professional productions, countless film and TV appearances as well as some of the most competitive collegiate programs in the country. Mandy is a Kramer grant winner and also holds TOPS awards for excellence in teaching.

**KRISTOPHER KARCHER** He/Him (*Dramaturg*) is thrilled to be back at Out Front after previously working on *Priscilla*: *Queen of the Desert, The Musical*. Currently LA based, Kristopher works at the Geffen Playhouse. Previous: Asolo Repertory Theatre, Azuka Theatre, The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, Playpenn, and The Riant Theatre. Twitter / Insta: @Karchswag



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# WHO WE ARE

Out Front Theatre Company was established to tell stories of the LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intergender, Allied) experience and community, giving voice to LGBTQIA+ authors, composers, artists, and creators through the medium of theatre and the performing arts. Out Front plans to develop new works and produce classic pieces of theatre that have communicated these stories of the LGBTQIA+ population to a wider audience over time.

As a non-profit organization with a dedicated focus to better the LGBTQIA+ population, we strive to:

- Produce established works and premiere productions created by members of the LGBTQIA+ society,
- **Generate** productions with universal themes which are important to the LGBTQIA+ community,
- *Educate* the populous to LGBTQIA+ history,
- Work with local and national LGBTQIA+ organizations to bring awareness of issues facing the LGBTQIA+ to the greater Atlanta area,
- Create artistic and educational opportunities for at-risk LGBTQIA+ youths by collaborating with local educational institutions and organizations,
- *Expand* the number of theatrical opportunities for artists who are members of or who support the LGBTQIA+ community.

Out Front hopes to create a narrative that will reach beyond the stage, into the

conversations and minds our audiences and artists. Theatre's power as a catalyst to spur dialogues goes back thousands of years. Out Front lives to continue that grand tradition of bringing the stories of the LGBTQIA+ people into the spotlight.

#### LGBTQIA+ Definitions

L stands for Lesbian: Term used to describe female identified people attracted romantically, erotically, and/or emotionally to other female identified people.

**G stands for Gay:** Term used in some cultural settings to represent male identified people who are attracted to other male identified people in a romantic, erotic and/or emotional sense. Also, a term used to refer to the LGBTQIA+ community as a whole or as an individual identity label for anyone who does not identify as heterosexual.

**B stands for Bisexual:** A person emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to people of more than one sex and/or gender. This attraction does not have to be equally split between genders and there may be a preference for one gender over others.

T stands for Transgender: A person who lives as a member of a gender other than that expected based on anatomical sex. Sexual orientation varies and is not dependent on gender identity. This term is sometimes used to refer to the gender variant community as a whole.

**O stands for Queer:** An umbrella term, which embraces a matrix of sexual preferences, orientations, and habits of the not-exclusively-heterosexual-andmonogamous majority. Queer includes lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transpeople, intersex persons, and many other sexually transgressive explorers. The term is sometimes used as a sexual orientation label instead of 'bisexual' as a way of acknowledging that there are more than two genders to be attracted to, or as a way of stating a non-heterosexual orientation without having to state who they are attracted to.

I stands for Intergender: Intergender people have a gender identity that is in the middle between the binary genders of female and male, and may be a mix of both.

A stands for Allied: Someone who confronts heterosexism, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, heterosexual and genderstraight privilege in themselves and others; a concern for the well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and intersex people; and a belief that heterosexism, homophobia, biphobia and transphobia are social justice issues.

+ stands for Many Other Identifications

including, but not limited to asexual, pansexual, genderqueer, polysexual, agender, androsexual, demisexual, and skoliosexual. We strive to be as inclusive as we can and know we can always improve.

Please visit outfronttheatre.com for a more expansive list of identities, sexualities, terms, resources and more

We welcome all humans, regardless of labels, and hope we celebrate and accept everyone regardless of how they identify.



#### STAFF AND BOARD LIST

**Out Front Theatre Company Staff** 

Paul Conroy (He/Him) – Founder & Producing Artistic Director
Mandy Mitchell (She/Her) – Director of Education
Justin Kalin (He/Him) – Associate Artistic Director
Jessica McGuire (She/Her) – Director of Special Events & Programming
Kayleigh Mikkel (She/Her) – Production Manager
Nick Silvestri (He/Him) – Resident Music Director
Brady Brown (He/Him) – Associate Marketing Director

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# **Donation Listing**

(Donations made between March 1, 2019 and March 1 2020.)

Out Front Theatre Company is a 501c3 non-profit organization. The health of the company depends on support from patrons just like you!

All donations are 100% tax deductible and greatly appreciated! No gift is too small because it truly takes a community to make the arts thrive and grow.

We wouldn't be here without the support of the friends listed below and we would LOVE to add your name to our list of supporters! Donation information is available at the box office or at outfronttheatre.com.

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TARA OCHS

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