



Duke's Eye Productions Presents:

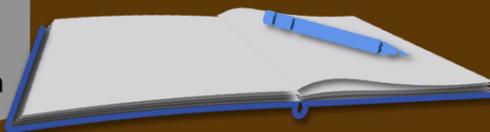
I LOVE YOU BECAUSE

a modern day musical love story

Music by Joshua Salzman
Book and Lyrics by Ryan Cunningham
Orchestrations by Larry Hochman

Friday, Aug 12: 8:00 pm
Saturday, Aug 13: 8:00 pm
Sunday, Aug 14: 2:00 pm

TheatreWorks @ The Square
2085 Monroe Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee



I Love You Because

A Modern Day Musical Love Story

Book and Lyrics: Ryan Cunnigham

Music: Joshua Salzoman

Orchestrations: Larry Hochman

Directed by Mariah Chase

Stage Management & Lighting by Domenic Michael Andolina

Choreography by Hunter Steele

Sound Operation by Tim Brown

Music/Vocal Coaching by JD Willis & Enzo Veiga

Instrumental Tracks designed by Javier Peña

Cast

Austin.....Colten Baker
Jeff.....Javier Peña
Marcy.....Christina Hernandez
Diana.....Liz Pegg
NYC Woman: Cocktail Waitress/Barista/Neighbor/Restaurant Manager.....Mariah Chase
NYC Woman: Bartender/Barista/Landlord/Chinese Food Waiter.....Marianne Orendorff

Musical Numbers

Act I

"Another Saturday Night in New York" – Company

"Oh What a Difference" – Jeff and Austin

"The Actuary Song" – Diana and Marcy

"...But I Don't Want to Talk About Her" – Austin and Marcy

"Coffee" – Marcy and Austin

"The Perfect Romance" – New York City Women

"Because of You" – Austin and Marcy

"We're Just Friends" – Diana and Jeff

"Maybe We Just Made Love" – Austin

"Just Not Now" – Marcy

Act II

"Alone" – Marcy, New York City Women

"That's What's Gonna Happen" – Jeff, Austin, Chinese Food Waiter and Diana

"Even Though" – Marcy

"But I Do" – Austin, Jeff, Marcy and Diana

"What Do We Do It For?" – New York City Women, Marcy and Diana

"Marcy's Yours" – Diana, Jeff and Austin

"Goodbye" – Austin

"I Love You Because" – Company

I Love You Because will be presented with a brief 15 minute intermission.

Director's Note

When Liz approached me to produce and direct this show in mid-June, I wasn't sure how to react. We were less than two weeks away from producing the first ever "The 24 Hour Plays: Memphis" and I already felt way in over my head. I also had some recent casting success and felt like my pandemic dry spell was finally ending. But maybe that wasn't enough for me. I immediately said "yes".

Liz and I connected when she auditioned for one of my postponed pandemic projects last year and we bonded again at other auditions. I knew she was a powerhouse, and I would be lucky to work with her in any capacity. Our shared passion for producing and bringing lesser-known talent to Memphis stages brought us together.

I told Liz we had a brief window of time to cast, prepare, rehearse and perform a musical I had never even heard of. But theoretically it was doable. I asked her to find us a venue, fully expecting we would not be able to squeeze this project in. Then more and more people started saying "yes". We both kept expecting to fall on our faces, and yet here we are.

*I am so humbled and grateful to the actors and crew who took a chance on this production. Learning a show none of us knew six weeks ago and making it shine. I am amazed at how well everyone has embodied these characters and imbued them with charm and humor. I hope that you all enjoy this rocky romance as much as I have enjoyed directing these incredible people. Stay tuned for what Duke's Eye Productions has in store for 2023 and beyond. And remember,
"Life is like a pickle..."*



Cast & Crew Bios



Colten Baker (Austin) is elated to be working with some new friends and “Duke’s Eye” for the first time. Though Colten does more writing these days than performing, you may have seen them as Ernst in “Cabaret” at Playhouse on the Square, or in ensembles of other musicals like, “May We All,” “Kinky Boots,” “Tuck Everlasting,” and “Priscilla, Queen of the Desert,” all at Playhouse as well. Additionally Colten has enjoyed playing roles such as The Escapologist in “Matilda the Musical” (POTS), Red Death in Brianna Roche’s original play, “Bedtime for Insomniacs,” Mister Smee in “Peter Pan” (POTS), as well as Hanschen in “Spring Awakening” and a hoard of other roles at The University of Memphis Theatre. Colten would like to thank you, the audience, for choosing to spend your evening at the theatre. “I hope you enjoy!” ~ Colt



Christina Hernandez (Marcy) is so excited to be a part of this amazing cast and crew! Some of her favorite credits include Head Over Heels (Gynecia), Lizzie the Musical (Lizzie, Ostrander Nomination), First Date (Casey), Falsettos (Cordelia), The Phantom of the Opera (Christine Daae, Ostrander Best Leading Actress), The Producers (Ulla), Carrie the Musical (Miss Gardner), Assassins, Kiss Me, Kate!, Collective Rage: A Play in Five Boops, Young Frankenstein, and Jon and Jen (Jen). She’d like to thank Liz and Mariah for letting her be a part of Dukes Eye’s first Memphis show. It’s been an absolute blast!



Javier Peña (Jeff) feels awesome about bringing this quirky character and production to life! He most recently appeared at the Harrell Theatre as Gomez in The Addams Family. Other past roles include Leaf Coneybear in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Theatre Memphis – Ostrander nominee), Rudolpho in Matilda (Playhouse on the Square), Seymour in Little Shop of Horrors (Andrews Living Arts Studio) and Bobby in Company (West Boca Theatre). He would like to thank God, the entire cast and crew, his talented wife and director Mariah, the rest of his family for their constant love and support and his ever-growing family of friends here in Memphis.



Liz Pegg (Diana) is thrilled and honored to bring Dukes Eye Productions to Memphis! Liz has produced, directed, and acted in shows all over the country, and she is so excited to get to share one of her favorite shows with you all! A few favorite credits include : Hairspray (Penny), The 25th...Spelling Bee (Schwartz), & Helvetica (Past Helvetica). To Mariah, Domenic, Javier , Christina, Colten, & Marianne : "Thank you for making this dream a reality. You're all amazing & I have so much love and respect for you!" Check Liz out at lizpegg.com



Marianne Orendorff (NYC Woman) is very excited to be involved with this show! She was most recently seen in "The Addams Family" as Alice Beineke at the Harrell Theatre, "Shockheaded Peter" with New Moon as Mother, and "Spamalot" as The Lady Of The Lake at the Ruffin Theatre. Favorite roles include Tanya in "Mamma Mia" at the Harrell Theatre, Madeleine Leclerc in "Quills" with New Moon Theatre Company, Beatrice in "Much Ado About Nothing" at Kudzu Playhouse, and Hold-Me-Touch-Me in "The Producers" at the Harrell . Thanks to Mariah for getting her involved in this and Liz for bringing her production company to Memphis!



Mariah Chase (NYC Woman/Director) is a Florida native who relocated to Memphis in 2018 and is thrilled to be directing this talented group of Memphis artists and co-producing with Liz. Mariah is just coming from co-producing and directing for the first ever "The 24 Hour Plays: Memphis" and is no stranger to TheatreWorks. Mariah began her theatrical career at age 6 as an actor and later expanded into directing. Some of her favorite past productions include: Agnes of God, Company, I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change, Spring Awakening, Zombie Prom, See Rock City, Kiss Me Kate and SHOUT. Mariah would like to give a special thank you to Liz and Domenic for being partners in crime and her husband Javier for all of his hard work on this show and support in her crazy endeavors.



Domenic Michael Andolina (Stage Manager) is thrilled to create theatre for the community of Memphis with Duke's Eye! He is a high school theatre teacher and special educator by day, a voracious reader of books, viewer of documentaries, minimalist, and playwright by night. Most recently he was co-producer and writer for the first ever "The 24 Hour Plays: Memphis" through Lone Tree Live. Domenic desires to partner with and showcase the talent of Memphis so that each stage is represented by the humanity and diversity we see in our city. A special thanks to Liz and Mariah for welcoming him with open arms!



Hunter Steele (Choreographer) is so grateful to have helped on this production with such talented individuals. Hunter was last seen on stage as Tom in *Shattered Secrets* (Emerald Theatre Company) and Max in *Bright Star* (Germantown Community Theatre). Previously, Hunter has choreographed shows such as *Beauty and the Beast*, *Schoolhouse Rock Live*, *Addams Family*, *Mamma Mia*, and *Elf Jr.* He gives many thanks to Mariah and Liz for asking him to be a part of this wonderful show!



Tim Brown (Sound Operator) While Tim is best known as a performer, he has spent the better part of the past three decades in the creative industry in one form or another. As a former professional video producer and editor, he spent 15 years behind the camera and in the editing room doing commercial projects for clients such as Coca-Cola and The American Heart Association. He served as technical audio effects and soundscapes advisor for the Haunted Web of Horrors Haunted Attraction in Memphis, TN for five years, as well as founded and served as executive director of the Superman Celebration Film Festival in Metropolis, IL. Behind the curtain he has done everything from directing (*Spamalot*, *Dearly Departed*), assistant/associated directing (*Legally Blonde*, *The Secret Garden*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *It's A Wonderful Life*), and music directing (*The Rocky Horror Show*, *The Secret Garden*), to lighting, scenic, sound, costume, and video effects design for various shows, (*Spamalot*, *Seussical*, *Legally Blonde*, *Dearly Departed*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, *The Secret Garden*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Rocky Horror Show*), often wearing multiple hats for each production, including performing. Onstage, he's had a blast playing various roles, such as *The Beast*, *Frank-N-Furter*, *Fester*, *King Arthur*, and *Archibald Craven*.

Special Thanks

TheatreWorks
Germantown Community Theater
Central Christian Church
Christ City Church
Kelsey Franjione
Mark Rutledge
John Rainey
Ben & Annie Higdon
Lourie & Eric Nyberg
Mer Therrien