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MIRANDA

A WAR-TORN FABLE

Book, Music and Lyrics written by
DOMINICK ALESIA

Directed by
STEFAN ROSEN

Feb. 17- Mar. 4, 2023

8pm Thurs-Sat | 3pm Sun

\$20 General Admission

Buy tickets at theimpostorstheatre.com
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The
DEN
THEATRE
The Upstairs Mainstage
1331 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60622

Cast

Amelia _____ Carter Rose Sherman
Miranda _____ Kayla Higbee
**Mother/Postwoman/
Prophetess/Mrs. Severhead** _____ Victoria Olivier
Father/Postman/Mr. Severhead _____ Gabe Reitemeier
Ludella _____ Whitney Ann Bates
Tommy-Gun Talia/Luna _____ Becky Valek*
Tiger/Stella _____ Chih-Jou Cheng
Felix _____ Anna Roemer*
**General Brandt/
Gatekeeper/Masquerader** _____ Eric Desnoyers
First Soldier _____ Ethan P. Gasbarro*
Second Soldier _____ Sam Martin

Crew

Director & Sound Designer _____ Stefan Roseen*
**Playwright,
Composer, Librettist,
& Music Director** _____ Dominick Vincent Alesia*
Choreographer _____ Anna Roemer*
Master Carpenter _____ James Eric Roseen
Costume Designer _____ Kayla Belec*
Hair & Makeup Designer _____ Victor Lopez*
Lighting Designer _____ Mallory Swisher*
Master Electrician _____ Hannah Bolstad
Props Artisans _____ Jackie Bobbitt & Levi Crouch
Stage Manager _____ Rachel Borgo*

*The Impostors Theatre Co. Ensemble Members

In an upside down version of the world, a great war has left everything destroyed and disjointed. Now, in its aftermath, civilians and soldiers live amongst the ruins of a perpetually night-soaked land that was once full of light and color. Some live in the skeletons of homes left behind, while others travel in search of family or whatever wind will take them far.

At the forefront of this desolate place, a girl named Amelia unpacks her mother's suitcase and discovers a photograph of a young woman holding her as a baby. She learns it is her sister Miranda who ran away 10 years ago, and Amelia's parents are doubtful she's survived the war. Thirsty for answers, Amelia sets out on a high-flown journey to reunite with the sister she's never known.

*An original musical written and composed by Dominick Vincent Alesia, **Miranda: A War-Torn Fable** follows a new, action-packed adventure unfurled in the spirit of journeys to Oz and Wonderland. Traversing terrains both frightening and fantastic with a kaleidoscope of colorful characters and a backdrop of music that pays homage to familiar favorites, this story promises to tether audiences to the force of song, family, and the heroine's journey. Make the moon a map and join us.*

***Miranda: A War-Torn Fable* has a run time of 2 hours and 15 minutes with a single, 15 minute intermission.**

PROGRAM

Reminders (I)
Rotted Doorway
Reminders (II)
Reminders (III)
The Photograph
Amelia in the Mirror
Nothing to be Scared of
Gatekeeper's Fury
The Red Servicemen Way
Two Black Foxes
First Letter
Sunlit and Innocent
First You Smile, Then You Laugh!
Second Letter/Darkened Moonlight

– INTERMISSION –

Soldier's Duet/Trio
You're In The Club Now, Kid!
Thrymskvia
The Red Servicemen Saying
First Interrogation/The Search
Second Interrogation/Lullaby
Ritual
Lament
When I Was Searching For You
Finale

BIOGRAPHIES

Dominick Alesia

Playwright, Composer, Librettist, and Music Director

Dominick Alesia (Playwright, Composer, Librettist, and Music Director) is a composer, lyricist, actor, and writer who has the wonderful privilege of being an ensemble member of The Impostors Theatre Company. Some of his favorite stage credits as an actor include 'Kirk' in ITC's 2019 production of *Tippy: Stories from the River*, 'Orpheus' in the Jedlicka Performing Arts' *Eurydice*, and 'Gabriel' in ITC's *Windwalkers*. As a composer, his work was most recently showcased in The Impostors' Season Three productions of the Jeff Nominated *Hertha Nova* and *The House of Baba Yaga*. Beginning his writing process back in 2018, *Miranda: A War-Torn Fable* is his second full-length musical performed in Chicago. He wrote his first musical during his studies at a conservatory in Chicago. Building this story from the ground up with such stunning artists and a fantastic production staff has created a collection of incredible moments, and he's looking forward to sharing this new musical with audiences at The Den.

Whitney Ann Bates

Gen. Ludella Lavine

Whitney Ann Bates (she/her) is thrilled to be making her Impostors debut with such an amazing creative team and cast. Whitney is a Chicago-based actor who believes in using her whole self—mind, body, and soul—to bring a story to life on stage and through film. Whitney recently appeared in a workshop production of *Camelot Lost* (Guinevere) with The Alchemists, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde* (Jekyll & Maid U/s) with Idle Muse Theatre Co., and in 2020 received her MFA in Acting from Regent University.

Kayla Belec

Costume Designer

Kayla Belec is thrilled to have the opportunity to outfit the characters of this bewitchingly charming show. She serves as Archivist and a founding ensemble member of The Impostors Theatre Company, and has been involved in every production since its fledgling days. A writer of many published works, Kayla wrote the play *Tippy: Stories from the River*,

which The Impostors brought to life in 2019. She looks forward to many more seasons of creating stage magic with this dedicated team. Kayla sends a special shout out to her husband Stefan for his brilliance in both the theater and the kitchen. Break a leg, all (except for Stefan, who has that covered)!

Jackie Bobbitt

Props Artisan

Jackie Bobbitt is thrilled to have a small part of this brand-new musical with The Impostors! Jackie has been doing theatre since 2003 and has always loved the community and creativity that theatre encourages. Previous credits include: Prop Design for *Glassheart*, *Urinetown*, *Boy, Trust*, *Evil Dead: The Musical*, *The Winter's Tale* (MVCC); Prop Design for *The House of Baba Yaga*, Special Effects Assistant for *Windwalkers* (The Impostors). Congrats to the talented cast and crew for *Miranda: A War-Torn Fable*! Enjoy the show!

Rachel Borgo

Stage Manager

Rachel is the Executive Director of The Impostors Theatre Co. and an alum of Valparaiso University. Most recently, she served as the dramaturg for ITC's *Windwalkers*, a role she reprises with each season. Prior to that, Rachel served as the production director of anthology series *Footholds Vol. 3* (ITC); playwright/director of the new immersive play *Body of Work* (Montpelier Arts Center); playwright/stage manager of Jeff Nominated *Hertha Nova* (ITC); and assistant director of *Footholds 2020: A Socially Distant Film* (ITC). Rachel would like to thank the cast and creative team of *Miranda: A War-Torn Fable* for showing her what real heroes do.

Chih-Jou Cheng

Tiger/Stella

Chih-Jou Cheng is a movement artist, director, and puppeteer originally from Taiwan. She is excited to help bring this beautiful new musical alive. Some of her most recent credits include *The King and I* (Drury Lane), *Newsies* as co-choreographer (Music House),

BIOGRAPHIES

and *A Chorus Line* as Connie Wong (Metropolis PAC). She is currently an ensemble member with the Rooted Space Dance Company. Additionally, Chih-Jou serves as the artistic director for Dawn Theatre Project and has created/performed with Above the Water. Others of her devised physical theatre works include *Arriving at Dawn* and *Hold your Hand*. You can check out more of her work at: chihjou-cheng.com

Levi Crouch Props Artisan

Levi Crouch (he/him) is an actor, prop maker, and stage fighter living in Chicago. He studied both acting and scenic design at the University of Central Oklahoma. By day he builds museum exhibits and retail showrooms, and by night he designs and builds props and custom D&D terrain. He lives in Edgewater with his wife Abigail and dog Rosie.

Eric Desnoyers Gen. Brandt/ Gatekeeper/Masquerader

Eric Desnoyers is making his Chicago Theater debut! Eric hails from the little state of Rhode Island, but previously resided in Orlando, FL before moving to Chicago. Favorite credits include Leaf Coneybear in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Mr. Brat in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, and Sister Mary Amnesia in *NUNSENSE-a-men*. Directing Credits include *EVITA* (Osceola Arts, FL) and *Always, Patsy Cline* (Theater West End, FL). Eric would like to thank the cast and crew and Stefan for welcoming him to the Chicago theater scene! Much love to "Birginia." Insta: @showbiz287

Ethan P. Gasbarro First Soldier

Ethan is excited to be back at The Den, but this time on stage rather than behind the scenes! This will be Ethan's Chicago debut as a performer, and he can't wait to show you the skills he's been keeping to himself for the past five years. Ethan usually designs and

builds sets for The Impostors. His set credits include *Windwalkers*, the Jeff Nominated *Hertha Nova*, *The House of Baba Yaga*, *Summer & Smoke*, *Tippy: Stories from the River*, *Caged: An Allegory*, and *The Wood*, in addition to each volume of *Footholds*. Ethan is the Lead Preparator at the Chicago History Museum, where he builds and maintains the exhibits. He also serves as the Technical Director of Stage Center Theatre at Northeastern Illinois University. As an independent TD/Carpenter, Ethan has built children's museum exhibits across the globe as well as scenery for First Floor Theatre, Oak Park Festival Theatre, Hell in a Handbag Productions, The House Theatre, The Second City, Writer's Theatre, Windy City Playhouse, Porchlight Music Theatre, and Music Theatre Works, as well as Salon Des Artistes, Snakes and Lattes, the 2019 EA Sports Chicago Bears NFL Kickoff Experience, and Masterchef. Feel free to check out some of Ethan's work on his website: ethangasbarro.com

Victor López Hair & Makeup Designer

Victor López is thrilled to be designing another show for The Impostors Theatre Co. after costume designing *Windwalkers* and the Jeff Nominated *Hertha Nova*. When not designing a show, they also perform, especially drawn to Latine stories. He was last seen in *Zorro: The Musical*, and as Angel in *Rent*.

Kayla Higbee Miranda

Kayla Higbee graduated from Roosevelt University and made her Chicago debut in *Unison* at the Chicago Musical Theatre Festival. She worked two years on Warner Bro's *The Polar Express*. You can often find her singing in cabarets around the city! Offstage, Kayla is a voice actor represented by Big Mouth Talent and a resident voice actor with MarchingOrder. Stay tuned for her audiobook debut, *As the Sycamore Grows* by Jennie Helderman, coming to Audible in 2023. Kayla is also a visual artist with a background in scenic paint and design, with two featured murals inside the Chicago bar and restaurant Port & Park Bistro. You can check out her work on Etsy and instagram: @klhprints.

BIOGRAPHIES

Kayla has long been a fan of Dom Alesia's work, performed his music in Davenport's cabarets, and is beyond honored to originate this role and to help tell this beautiful story. Thank you for your support, and enjoy the show!

Sam Martin

Second Soldier

Sam Martin is a graduate of CCPA Roosevelt University where he received his BFA in Musical Theater. Notable Chicago credits include *Dracula* (Glass Apple Theatre), *Notes and Letters* (Underscore Theatre), *Jack Off The Beanstalk* (PrideArts), *Anything Goes* (Metropolis Performing Arts Center), and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Citadel Theatre). On top of acting, Sam is a multi-instrumental songwriter and a big nerd with a passion for DnD, Video Games, and Anime.

Victoria Olivier

Mother/Prophetess/ Postwoman/Mrs. Severhead

Victoria is so excited to be joining The Impostors Theatre Company for the second time. They were last seen in The Impostors' Jeff-recommended production of *Hertha Nova* as Dr. Fisher. Favorite credits include *Horatio* (Hamlet, Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation), *Daenerys/Kelly* (Thrones! The Musical Parody, Apollo Theatre), and *Sancho Panza* (Man Of La Mancha, MadKap Productions). They are thrilled to be performing in a musical for the first time since 2018. Victoria graduated from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, LA with a B.S. in Musical Theatre, and is currently studying vocal performance and technique with Allison Rozsa Evans.

Gabriel Reitemeier

Father/Postman/Mr. Severhead

Gabriel Reitemeier (he/him) is a recent transplant to the city, and is delighted for Miranda to be his first Chicago production! He holds a BA from Grand Valley State University, and an MM from Michigan State University, both in Voice, and an MFA in Acting from the

University of South Carolina. His other professional credit is another world-premiere play, *Montgomery*, with the Trustus Theatre Co. Young Artist Program credits include: *Don Pasquale*, *Falstaff*, *La Traviata*, *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, *La Cenerentola*, and *Cinderella*. His academic credits include: *Amadeus*, *Eurydice*, *5 Dollar Ticket* (original 1-man show), *Street Scene*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Company*, *The Magic Flute*, *Urinetown*, and many others.

Anna Roemer

Choreographer and Felix

Anna Roemer is an ensemble member with The Impostors Theatre Company. This is her first time working as their choreographer and third time performing with the company. Choreography credits include *Mamma Mia* (Drury Lane, asst.); *Emma* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater, asst.); *Freaky Friday*, *Footloose*, *Newsies*, *Shrek*, and *High School Musical* (Music House Inc., Resident Choreographer). Some of her favorite productions working on stage include *Windwalkers* (Tiff, ITC); *The House of Baba Yaga* (Spirit, ITC); *Mamma Mia* (Ensemble/Swing, Drury Lane); and *The Polar Express* (Steward, Rail Events). She graduated from Roosevelt University CCPA with a B.F.A. in Musical Theater, where she met an incredible composer who wanted to tell a story about two sisters reuniting. It is such a joy working with this entire team—we hope you enjoy the show!

Carter Rose Sherman

Amelia

Carter Rose Sherman is a Chicago-based actor who is thrilled to be making her Impostors debut! Recent credits include: Lucy in *Dracula* (SF+T), Dolores, U/S Kate in *The Wild Party* (Blank Theatre Company), Veronica in *Heathers* (SF+T), and *Nell Gwynn* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater). She is a proud company member of Blank Theatre Company. carterrosesherman.com.

BIOGRAPHIES

Becky Valek

Tommy Gun Talia/Luna

Becky Valek (they/them) is a Chicago-based artist. Becky has historically been behind the scenes as a stage manager, and they are thrilled to be performing again for the first time in many years with this incredible group of artists. Credits: *Laced* (About Face Theatre); *Windwalkers*, *The House of Baba Yaga*, *Tippy: Stories from the River*, *The Wood* (The Impostors Theatre Co). They are a proud ensemble member of The Impostors and serve as the Audience Services Director. Becky earned their BA in Theatre from Valparaiso University. Thank you for being here and supporting live theatre!

James E. Roseen

Master Carpenter

James E. Roseen was most recently master carpenter for Trap Door Theatre's productions of "*The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*," "*Occidental Express*," and "*25/25*." Jim has been building things for more than 40 years, both personally and professionally, and is the owner and general contractor for J. Eric and Company. The OG DIYer, Jim always has a building or remodeling project in the works, whether here at home in Chicagoland or Up North at the family cottage. While Jim's tools and expertise have been shared for many props-making and set-building projects over the years, this is his first time as Master Carpenter for The Impostors Theatre Company.!

Stefan Roseen

Director & Designer

Stefan Roseen is a Chicago director, playwright, and designer. He serves as the artistic director for The Impostors Theatre Company. Stefan most recently directed for The Impostors on *Windwalkers*. Additional directing credits include: the Jeff Nominated *Hertha Nova*; *The House of Baba Yaga*; *Summer & Smoke*; *Tippy: Stories from the River*; *Footholds 2020 & 2019*; *Caged: An Allegory*; *The Wood*; *The Terrible Tragedy of Peter Pan*; *Art*; and *The Altercation in the Underworld* – Winner "Best Of" for MadKap Productions Short Play Festival. Stefan earned his degree in Theatre and Studio Art from Valparaiso University

where he has returned to direct. Stefan's more recent theatrical designs include sets for *25/25*, *Occidental Express*, the Jeff Recommended *They*, and the Jeff Nominated *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* – all for Trap Door Theatre.

Mallory Swisher

Lighting Designer

Mallory Swisher is a playwright, actor, and designer. She is proud to have penned *The Wood*, which premiered with The Impostors in October 2018. Recent acting credits include: *Mary Poppins* (Memorial Opera House), *A Staged Reading of Tippy: Stories from the River* (The Impostors), *The Altercation in the Underworld* ("Best of the Fest" at the Annual Madcap Production Short Play Festival), *South Pacific* (The LaPorte Symphony Orchestra), and *Assassins* (Crown Point Theater). Lighting design credits include: *Footholds 2022*, *The House of Baba Yaga*, *Summer & Smoke*, *Tippy: Stories from the River*, *Footholds 2019*, *Caged: An Allegory*, and *The Wood*, all for The Impostors. Mallory has studied at the iO Theater and received her degree from Valparaiso University. Catch her voicing Poppy on *Roll 4 Your Life*, a D&D podcast. New episodes available every Monday on your preferred podcasting platform.

In loving memory of
Elmer Kerstowske

*“May you be successful in your journeys,
and may good fortune follow you!”*

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