



A Chorus  
of Oysters

a collage of  
microplays on  
climate change

March 31 -  
April 9, 2022

*A Chorus of Oysters:  
a collage of microplays on  
climate change*

directed by Mark Baer

scenic design Katherine Arfken

costume design Tina Stasny

lighting design Timothy O'Donnell

sound design Mark Baer

March 31 - April 9, 2022

This performance runs approximately 1 hour and 35 minutes  
including a 10-minute intermission

## cast

Dara Brummett

Jimmy Burch

Zach Kettell

Tyler Marrie

Brian Moore

DeDjreanna Thames

Emma Ton

## production team

producer Katherine Arfken

associate producer Mark Baer

administrative coordinator/box office manager Erin McHugh

production mgr/technical director Timothy O'Donnell

assistant technical director Brian Thomas-Chopps

stage manager/lightboard operator Joseph Bugajski

assistant stage manager Nicole Eldridge

sound board operator Jacob Rodriguez

assistant scenic design Jazz Jaramillo, Maxwell McLean

shadow puppet artists Katherine Arfken, Jazz Jaramillo, Kyleah Martin,  
Maxwell McLean

properties Myles Reynolds

scenery, props + electrics crew Joe Bugajski, Jazz Jaramillo, Maxwell

McLean + T335 Stage Lighting class: Dara Brummett, Joe Bugajski,  
Esperanza Flores, Mia Godfrey, Jazz Jaramillo, Tyler Marrie, Max  
McLean, Jacob Rodriguez, Otto Reuth, Eliana Wakefield

T283 Topics: Sound Design contributions: Maxwell McLane, Joe Bugajski,  
Jacob Rodriguez

front of house staff Mariah Alao, Raven Crawford, Jazz Jaramillo, Autumn  
Oliver

program artwork Corey Hagelberg

special thanks: Jen Duncan and Corey Hagelberg, Bobbie Nobles, Carrie and  
Declan O'Donnell, Marc Ryser, Freesound.org, Jsliversound, Evgeny Bardyuzha,  
Tenenise, Victor Lundberg, Margareta, Luella Gren, Serge Quadrado

# act 1

## Prologue

"A TV Show Called Earth" by Philip Labes  
Dara Brummett, Tyler Marrie

### *Laila Pines for the Wolf* | by Hassan Abdulrazzak

Wolf Zach Kettell  
Mother Dara Brummett  
Laila Emma Ton  
Grandmother Tyler Marrie

### *The Penguin* | by Nicolas Billon

Penguin Jimmy Burch  
Albatross DeDjreanna Thames

### *The Persistence of Possibility* | by Karen Elias

Narrator Zach Kettell  
Ereshkigal Dara Brummett  
Flies Jimmy Burch, Tyler Marrie, Brian Moore

### *The Rookery* | by Elaine Ávila\*

Brunhilda DeDjreanna Thames  
Sitka Emma Ton

### *Trés Marias: Luz* | by Shy Richardson & Karina Yager

Brian Moore, Tyler Marrie, Dara Brummett, Jimmy Burch,  
Zach Kettell

### *Bedtime Story for my (Future) Daughter* |

by Caity-Shea Violette  
storyteller Brian Moore  
puppeteers Tyler Marrie, Emma Ton  
chorus Dara Brummett, Jimmy Burch, Zach Kettell,  
DeDjreanna Thames

# 10-minute intermission

## act 2

### *The Oysters* | by Miranda Rose Hall

Dara Brummett, Jimmy Burch, Zach Kettell, Tyler Marrie,  
Brian Moore, DeDjreanna Thames, Emma Ton

### *Steamy Session in Singapore Spa* | by Damon Chua

experiment guide Zach Kettell  
spa user Dara Brummett

### *Absolutely Nothing of Any Meaning* | by Sunny Drake

Jimmy Burch, Dara Brummett

### *Small But Mighty* | by Mwendie Mbugua

Tamu DeDjreanna Thames  
Mama Nyuki Zach Kettell  
Asali Emma Ton  
Bees Dara Brummett, Jimmy Burch, Tyler Marrie  
Bwana Farmer Brian Moore

### *Us in the Past* | by Nathan Ellis

Host Brian Moore  
Dara Brummett, Jimmy Burch, Zach Kettell, Tyler Marrie,  
DeDjreanna Thames, Emma Ton

*\*Produced by special arrangement with Playwrights Guild of Canada*

# playwright profiles

**Hassan Abdulrazzak (*Laila Pines for the Wolf*)** is an award-winning playwright of Iraqi origin, born in Prague and living in London. His plays include *The Special Relationship* (Soho theatre, 2020), *And Here I Am* (Arcola Theatre, 2017 and UK tour; Europe, Middle East, and Africa tour, 2018-2019), *Love Bombs and Apples* (Arcola Theatre, 2016 and UK tour; Golden Thread, San Francisco, 2018 followed by a second UK tour; Kennedy Center, Washington D.C., 2019), *The Prophet* (Gate Theatre, 2012), and *Baghdad Wedding* (Soho Theatre, 2007; BBC Radio 3, 2008; Belvoir St. Theatre, Sydney, 2009; Akvarious Productions, Delhi and Mumbai, 2010.)

**Elaine Ávila (*The Rookery*)** is an American and Canadian playwright, a co-founder of Climate Change Theatre Action, and a Fulbright Scholar to the Azores, Portugal for 2019. Her plays tell untold stories of women, workers, the Portuguese, and climate change. Favorite Best New Play Awards: Disquiet International Literary Program in Lisbon, Victoria Critics Circle, Panama City's Festival de los Cocos. She is distinguished as a *descendentes notáveis* (Notable Descendant) for her theatre work by the Government of the Azores, Portugal.

**Nicolas Billon (*The Penguin*)** writes for theatre, television, and film. His work has been produced around the world and garnered many awards, including a Governor-General's Award for Drama, a Canadian Screen Award, and a Writers Guild of Canada Screenwriting Award. [www.nicolasbillon.com](http://www.nicolasbillon.com)

**Damon Chua (*Steamy Session in Singapore Spa*)** is a New York-based playwright. He was a member of the Public Theater's Emerging Writers Group 2014-15 and is a current member of Ma-Yi Theatre's Writers Lab. Off-Broadway Plays include *Film Chinois*, *Incident at Hidden Temple*, and *The Emperor's Nightingale*. He is published by Samuel French, Smith & Kraus and Plays for Young Audiences. Damon also writes poetry and short stories.

**Sunny Drake (*Absolutely Nothing of Any Meaning*)** is a playwright, theatre creator, performer and producer. His works have been translated into four languages and presented in over 60 cities across the world for a wide range of audiences, from elderly ladies in regional theatres to queers in underground warehouses. Born in Australia on Jagera-Turrbal land (Brisbane), he has lived in Tkaronto (Toronto, Canada) since 2011, on the territory of the Two Row Wampum Belt Treaty.

**Karen Elias (*The Persistence of Possibility*)** is a writer/activist living in rural Pennsylvania whose plays make use of the intersections between myth, ideology, and history to raise awareness about the climate crisis. She produced a Climate Change Theatre Action event, "Act Like Our Lives Depend On It!," in cooperation with her local Millbrook Playhouse in 2019.

**Nathan Ellis (*Us in the Past*)** is from the UK and is based between London and Berlin. He was a member of the Royal Court Invitation Writers' Supergroup 2018-19 led by Alice Birch and Ali McDowall. His plays include *No One Is Coming to Save You* (published by Oberon) and *work.txt*. In 2020 his play *SUPER HIGH RESOLUTION* was Shortlisted for the Verity Bargate Award.

**Miranda Rose Hall (*The Oysters*)** works include *Plot Points in Our Sexual Development* (LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater, finalist for the 2019 Lambda Literary Award in Drama), *The Hour of Great Mercy* (Diversions Theater, 2019 San Diego Critics Circle Award for Outstanding New Play), *A Play for the Living in a Time of Extinction* (Baltimore Center Stage), and *The Kind Ones* (Magic Theatre). She is a graduate of Georgetown University and the Yale School of Drama.

**Mwendie Mbugua (*Small But Mighty*)** is a Communication practitioner, author and Sundance Theatre Lab Artist in Residence. She has always had a passion for theatre and been involved in staging several Easter and Christmas musicals in her hometown Nairobi, Kenya. In 2016, her dream of being an author was realized, and she launched her first children's book *Don't turn off the lights!* She currently lives in California with her husband and two children.

**Shy Richardson (*Trés Marias: Luz*)** is a writer, performer, youth advocate, and hip hop head from New York City (before it turned into a bike lane). She believes wholeheartedly in the transformative nature of the arts, and hopes to create work that explores Black and Brown folks and the spaces we inhabit, create, and break free of.

**Caity-Shea Violette (*Bedtime Story for my (Future) Daughter*)** is a US-based playwright whose work explores breaking cycles and learning how to belong to yourself. She's a winner of the Jean Kennedy Smith Playwriting Award, The Clauder Competition, Samuel French OOB Festival, Gary Garrison National Ten Minute Play Award, and Susan Glaspell Playwriting Festival National Award. Theatres presenting her work include Portland Stage Company, Roundabout Theatre Company, the Kennedy Center, and Boston Playwrights Theatre. She holds an MFA in Playwriting from Boston University.

**Karina Yager (*Trés Marias: Luz*)** specializes in interdisciplinary research aimed at monitoring the impacts of climate change in mountain regions, while also understanding the human dimensions of unprecedented socio-ecological change on Earth. Yager's research combines remote sensing analysis with alpine vegetation studies and ethnographic fieldwork with Indigenous Andean pastoralists. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at Stony Brook University in New York.

# cast profiles

**Dara Brummett** is new to theatre and this is her first role on stage. A native of Crown Point, she is a 1st year psychology major at IU Northwest. Dara is grateful for the opportunity to be in the play.

**Jimmy Burch** is excited to be back at IU Northwest playing various roles including a penguin which is his favorite animal. He has also been a part of IUN Theater playing Dr. Seward in *Dracula*, Valère in *The Miser*, and understudy of Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*. He has worked with Gary Shakespeare Company playing Sir Andrew Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night* and more recently Francis Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He has also had the pleasure of working with West Side Theater Guild playing Lieutenant Byrd in *A Soldier's Play*.

**Zach Kettell** is extremely excited to be part of IU Northwest's production of *A Chorus of Oysters*. This is Zach's first production with Theatre Northwest but is known for his roles as Eric in *Matilda: The Musical* performed at Lake Central High School as well as his role of Gentleman Starkey in Towle Youth Theatre Ensemble's production of *Peter Pan*.

**Brian Moore** is new to working with IUN but he has been performing in theatre for 9 years now. Brian has performed in high school and with theater companies such as M&M Ross and Genesis Guild. Having done shows such as *Into the Woods*, *Phantom of the Opera*, and *Sister Act*, he is excited to partake in this production of *A Chorus of Oysters*.

**Tyler Marrie** is excited to be returning for his second show at IUN, where he played in the recent production of *Kaminski's Lot*. He is currently enrolled at IUN and working towards a bachelor's degree in the performing arts. He would like to thank his friends and family for their support.

**DeDjreanna Thames** was last seen on stage at IUN in "Electric Roses" as part of the 2019 10-Minute Play Festival. Since then, she studied performance at IU Bloomington and is following her dreams of acting on social media (@only.dedj). She has continued to be an activist for social causes such as Black Lives Matter and gender and LGBTQ issues. You can find her at work or on stage, but you'll always see her smiling.

**Emma Ton** is overjoyed to perform in her second production at IUN, being previously cast in *Kaminski's Lot*. Emma found her love of theatre in her first production a year ago, *Beauty and the Beast*, and adores the theatre department at IU Northwest and everyone involved with the program. She would like to thank her friends and family for their support, and the cast for making the experience so memorable.



# production team profiles

**Mark Baer (director/sound designer/assoc. producer)** is an Associate Professor of Theatre in his eleventh year at IU Northwest. As theatre has returned to the world over the last 6 months he has directed *True West* for St. Croix Festival Theatre and *Kaminski's Lot* for Theatre Northwest. Mark serves as President of the IU Northwest Faculty Organization as well as on several non-profit boards. His love and thanks go to his wife Kelly and daughter Samantha for their understanding and support.

**Katherine Arfken (producer/scenic designer)** is an Associate Professor of Theatre at IUN, where she recently designed scenery for *Kaminski's Lot* and *A Raisin in the Sun*. She was the producer for the IUN Raisin Cycle, which included *A Raisin in the Sun* directed by Sydney Chatman and a staged reading of *Genesis* with Chicago playwright Mercedes White. Chicago design credits include *The Bottle Tree*, *Mutt*, and *Insurrection: Holding History* with Stage Left Theatre.

**Tina Stasny (costume designer)** is ecstatic to be designing costumes for the second time at IUN. Her work includes stitching, designing, and wardrobe throughout NWI and Chicago at The Goodman, Writer's Theater, Court Theatre, The Rhino, Theater at the Center, for dozens of individual dancers and performers, and a 25-year partnership with the Old Town School of Folk Music. A NWI native, Tina started sewing and designing early encouraged by her grandmother who was also a designer, and continued at Purdue University where she received her B.A.

**Timothy O'Donnell (production manager/technical director/lighting designer)** has been involved in over 250 productions. Tim received his BA from The University of Alabama at Birmingham in Theatre/Art Studio, and from The University of Memphis, his MFA in Scenic/Lighting Design. Tim is a former member of IATSE local 412: Sarasota, and currently serves on the board of Gary Shakespeare Company. Since 2008, Tim has been the Production Manager/Technical Director for the IU Northwest Department of Performing Arts.

**Erin McHugh (Box Office Manager & Administrative Coordinator of the School of the Arts)** is an arts administrator and musicologist who is excited to have joined the IUN School of the Arts during this important season. Erin is a recent transplant from London, where she was a student, a member of staff, and a lecturer at the Royal College of Music. Her PhD research focused on singers' performance practices in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Joe Bugajski (stage manager/lightboard operator)** is a theatre major at IUN, where he recently performed in *Kaminski's Lot*. Joe was introduced to the theatrical arts while touring the country with Zoppe Family Circus. This experience altered the trajectory of his life, and eventually led him to study theatre here at IUN.

## production team profiles (cont.)

**Jacob Rodriguez (sound board operator)** has past experience as sound board operator on *Doll's House*, *Well*, and *Kaminski's Lot* and as part of the construction crew for *A Raisin in the Sun*. Jacob is a senior theatre major with specific areas of interest in sound design and character design for animation.

**Myles Reynolds (properties)** is excited to open his first theatre production after an initial assignment on the Covid-canceled *Clybourne Park*. Myles is a theatre major at IUN.

**Brian Thomas-Chopps (assistant technical director)** is excited to be returning to IUN where his credits include assistant technical direction for *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Kaminski's Lot* and sound design for *A Doll House*, *Well*, and *Failure: A Love Story*. Additional NWI and Chicago credits include sound design for *Othello* (Gary Shakespeare Company) and assistant technical director for *Insurrection* (Stage Left Theatre/Theatre-on-the-Lake) Brian received his BA in Theatre from IUN.

**Nicole Eldridge (assistant stage manager)** is excited to be a part of her first theater production at IUN, Although she has a love for theater and production, she has not had an opportunity such as this, so, welcome her to the world of theater. She thanks her best friend, Zach Kettell, for introducing her to the amazing and wonderful cast and is thankful for this experience and opportunity!

**Jasmine "Jazz" Jaramillo (asst. scenic design/shadow puppet artist)** is a third-year IUN theatre student. She recently played Reyna in *Kaminski's Lot* and served as assistant stage manager in *A Raisin in The Sun*. They have 4 years of theatre experience as an actor, makeup designer, costume designer and stage crew for many shows in high school and worked in community theatres such as Ross Summer Music Productions and Center Street Theatre M&M productions.

**Kyleah Martin (shadow puppet artist)** is excited to be returning to IU Northwest, where she worked on *Kaminski's Lot* this past fall. She has also performed as Mustardseed in *A Midsummer's Night Dream* (Gary Shakespeare Company). Kyleah currently attends 21st Century High School and has received her Associate's degree from Ivy Tech Community College.

**Maxwell McLean (asst. scenic design/shadow puppet artist)** is a second-year theatre student at IU Northwest. He prefers the technical side of theatre. He was the master carpenter for our production of *Kaminski's Lot* last semester and worked on the shadow puppetry team for *A Chorus of Oysters* this semester.

**Corey Hagelberg (program artwork)** is an interdisciplinary artist and teacher. He is co-founder and director of the Calumet Artist Residency (CAR), whose mission is to connect people, art and nature. For the last 15 years, his work with black and white woodcut has highlighted the relationship between the human and natural world. He lives and works in Gary, Indiana.

## THE CLIMATE SEASON project team

producer | Katherine Arfken

associate producers | Mark Baer & Corey Hagelberg

production manager/technical director | Timothy O'Donnell

administrative coordinator/box office manager | Erin McHugh

The 21/22 Theatre Northwest CLIMATE SEASON has been a full season of theatre productions and community events focused on the topics of climate change. Through performance and storytelling, Climate Season events have explored our climate crisis from a variety of perspectives and highlighted local climate action and sustainability initiatives. In the process, we hoped to strengthen the relationship between the IU Northwest campus and our community as we work towards climate resilience.

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## School of the Arts + Department of Performing Arts

IUN school of the arts dean | David Klamen

associate professor | Katherine Arfken

associate professor | Mark Baer

administrative coordinator/box office manager | Erin McHugh

production manager/technical director | Timothy O'Donnell

programming and engagement director | Lauren Pacheco

soa recruiter and project coordinator | Cathy Feeman

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## 2022 summer/fall | theatre classes

summer 2022 [all online]

THTR T100 Introduction to Theatre

fall 2022

THTR T100 Introduction to Theatre

THTR T120 Acting 1

THTR T168 Theatre Practicum

THTR T225 Stagecraft I

THTR T283/THTR T483 Topics: Chicago Theatre

# upcoming CLIMATE SEASON events

in collaboration with the IUN Office of Sustainability

**Sustainability Speaker Series** | on zoom

April 13: IUN Biology Professor Spencer Cortwright

*The Gem of Chicago Wilderness: Ecology and Restoration of the Greatest (a Great) Ecological Region of the U.S.*

This presentation will convey how to quantify the ecological quality of an area, will present how our area became such an ecological gem, will illustrate some of our most wondrous habitats, and will communicate the important need for restoration of our ecological gem. Your visits to our local nature preserves will take on new anticipation and excitement from now on!

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in collaboration with Calumet Artist Residency

**Resilient Midtown Tour**

April 23, tour begins at noon

The Resilient Midtown Tour will highlight local stories of African American creativity, resilience and cooperation in Midtown Gary to inspire community-based responses to climate change and food insecurity. The tour will include sites of cultural, political and historical significance and current community gardens

The route will cover 2 miles and include 10 stops. We will walk slowly. Community members are encouraged to participate in whatever way is best for their time and abilities. Light Refreshments will be provided midway.

for more info on these events and others

visit [www.iun.edu/theatre/productions/current](http://www.iun.edu/theatre/productions/current)

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