

GROUND FLOOR THEATRE PRESENTS
A COMMISSION WORLD PREMIERE

JACK & AIDEN



BOOK BY

LANE MICHAEL STANLEY

MUSIC & LYRICS BY **TOVA KATZ**

DIRECTED BY **TRACE TURNER**

JACK & AIDEN CAST

Jack.....JUSTIN P. LOPEZ

Aiden.....LAURA LEO KELLY

JACK & AIDEN ORCHESTRA

Conducted by Trey Shonkwiler

KeyboardTREY SHONKWILER

ViolinKRISTIE CHENG

Cello.....CAROLINE MAGEE

GuitarSTEVIE TRUDELL

BassJESSICA FAGRE

Drums.....MELODIE ZAPATA



Ground Floor Theatre fosters an environment for creative thinkers and artists to produce works focusing on underrepresented communities, lifting voices that need to be heard to people who need to hear them.

We believe in theatre for everyone!

For more information please visit groundfloorthatre.org



Jack & Aiden

Book by

LANE MICHAEL STANLEY

Music and Lyrics by

TOVA KATZ

Additional Lyrics by

LANE MICHAEL STANLEY

Directed by **TRACE TURNER**

Musical Direction by **TREY SHONKWILER**

Intimacy Director **ANDY GRAPKO**
Scenic Design **GARY THORNSBERRY**
Lighting Design **PATRICK ANTHONY**
Costume Design **AARON KUBACAK**
Sound Design **RODD SIMONSEN**
Orchestrator **JULIE RICHARDSON**
Properties Design **LIZ TYSON**
Video Design **MICAH MABEY**
Video Programmer **ZAC CROFFORD**
Rehearsal Stage Manager **MAXINE DILLON**
Production Stage Manager **KELSEY MORINGY**
Stage Manager **ANDREA NUÑEZ**
Scenic Leads **ZAC CROFFORD & CONNOR HOPKINS**
Scenic Team **HEATHER JARMON, SEAN RYAN**
Master Electrician **GAVIN KANTOR**
Sound Board Operator **MAISIE JONES**
Graphic Design **ERICA MORENO**
Box Office Manager **DIANA RAFFERTY**
Photographer **STEVE ROGERS**
Press Representative **MOTLEY CREW MEDIA/NICOLE SHIRO**
Social Media Marketing **ANDREA NUÑEZ**

November 30—December 16, 2023

MUSICAL NUMBERS

New

Slow Down

Can't Promise You Anything

Floating

Quiet

54321

So What?

One Hell of a Life

Flying

I Forgive You

Could Never Say No

Hey, Daniel

Wounds/Maps

Content Warning:

This production contains brief full nudity, depictions of sex, and deals with the subject of addiction and recovery.

We strongly recommend 18 and over.

ABOUT THE CAST



LAURA LEO KELLY—They/Them (Aiden) is a trans non-binary artist based wherever the good theatre is. After spending the last year as Anybodys with the International Tour of *West Side Story* directed by Lonny Price, Laura Leo is overjoyed to be making their Austin debut with Ground Floor Theatre. Favorite regional credits include: Andrej in *Once* (CCAE Theatricals), Sonny in *Grease* (Musical Theatre West), *Something Rotten* (5Star Theatricals), and Andrew Hall in *Men on Boats* (Thingamajig Theatre). In 2022, Leo won an OC Theatre Guild Award for their performance in *Striking 12!* at Chance Theater. AMDA LA Alum! Protect Trans Youth. @laukell_



JUSTIN P. LOPEZ—He/Him (Jack) is thrilled to make his Ground Floor Theatre and Austin debut in this beautiful piece! He is a mixed-race Indigenous, Latino, and Asian actor, singer, writer, and boba-milk-tea enthusiast, who is passionate about new works and loves finding true connection and humanity in each script. As an actor, recent credits include the world premiere of *Kiss My Aztec!* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre), *Twelfth Night* (Marin Shakespeare Company), and *Glass Menagerie* (African American Shakespeare Company). As a writer, Justin's work has been recognized by the Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Ashland New Play Festival, Yale Drama Prize, and many organizations around the country, including PlayGround, TEATRX, Teatro Chelsea, and Town Hall Theatre. Find out what else Justin is up to at www.justinplopez.com.

ABOUT THE WRITERS



LANE MICHAEL STANLEY—He/They is a transgender director, playwright, filmmaker, and producer, and the co-founder of Secretly Famous Productions, along with Lowell Blank. Their award-winning debut feature film *ADDICT NAMED HAL* played at festivals including Austin Film Festival, Santa Barbara International Film Festival, and Dances with Films. Their short film *UNTIE* played at Outfest, Toronto Short Film Festival, aGLIFF / Prism Film Festival, and more, and their plays have been produced and developed by 19 theaters in 8 states and Australia. They have been a commissioned artist and/or fellow with Lambda Literary, Ground Floor Theatre, Art with Impact, and coLAB Arts and hold an MFA in Directing from the University of Texas at Austin. For more information, please visit www.lanemichaelstanley.com and www.secretlyfamousprod.com.



TOVA KATZ—She/They is an award-winning queer lyricist-composer, writer and performer. Their work has been featured at La Mama, 54 Below, and Joe's Pub. Tova has been developing the new drag king musical *Beneath the Bowtie* with Alexandra Kalinowski and Katie Lindsay in the Geffen Writers' Room, with a reading in 2022 (Geffen Playhouse) and an upcoming writing residency for the project at the Geffen in 2024. Tova composed music for the world premiere of *Menstruation: A Period Piece* written by Miranda Rose Hall in March 2023 (Big Little Theater Co, in partnership with the LA LGBT Center). She is currently collaborating with Lisa Sanaye Dring on the new musical *Unveiling* with an upcoming reading in March 2024 (Chalk Rep). This year, Tova performed their original solo musical *See You at the Funeral!* directed by Diana Wyenn at Los Angeles Performance Practice's LAX Festival and the Geffen Contemporary at MOCA. Imagination saves her life every day.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS & PRODUCTION TEAM

TRACE TURNER—He/They (*Director*) is a multi-disciplinary queer storyteller originally from Austin, TX. Trace holds a degree in Directing from the Sargent Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University. Trace works as a free-lance director, intimacy professional, actor, and writer. Trace's style has been described as a blend between the fantastical and naturalistic. They work primarily to help support imaginative and exciting new work. Previous directing credits include: *Wraith Radio* (Bottle Alley Theatre Co.) *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* (The Alchemy Theatre) *The Sound of Music*, *A Year With Frog and Toad* (Grandstreet Theatre), *Photograph 51* (Sargent Conservatory at Webster University), *Miss Lotta Chanel Explains*, *I Knew Him Well* (Frontera Fringe Festival), *Constellations*, and *Dead Letters* (Independent Productions). They are also co-creator and writer for the upcoming audio drama *A Very Hot Girl Gothic Telethon: Live!*. www.traceturner.com

TREY SHONKWILER—He/Him (*Music Director/Keyboard*) is ecstatic to be making his debut with Ground Floor Theatre! He can be seen both on stage and behind the scenes music directing all over Central Texas. Selected favorite roles and production credits include *Beauty and the Beast* (Cogsworth), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Quasimodo), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey II), *Little Women* (John Brooke), *It Shoulda Been You* (Albert), *Hands on a Hardbody* (Jésus Peña), *Avenue Q* (Brian), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Chip Tolentino), *Cinderella* (Music Director), *Freaky Friday* (Music Director), *Matilda* (Music Director), *Shrek* (Music Director), and *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (Music Director). When not a part of a production, Trey can be found teaching voice lessons, chilling at a coffee shop with a good book, or going on random adventures with his friends.

ANDY GRAPKO—She/Her (*Intimacy Director*) is the Resident Intimacy Director for the Department of Theatre and Dance at UT Austin. Trained with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators, her recent intimacy credits include *Ride the Cyclone* (UT, Austin), *Le Bohème* (Butler Opera Center), *Pipeline* (Alchemy Theatre), *Sanctuary City* (Ground Floor Theatre), *The Pearl Fishers* (Austin Opera), *Big Love* (Texas State), *Address the Body!* (UT, Austin), *Grease* (Summer Stock Austin), *Fabulous Monsters* (Public Theatre of San Antonio), *More Blackberries Please* (Cohen New Works Festival), *...but you could've held my hand*, (UT, Austin), and films *Growing Pains*, *Do Not Disturb*, and *Clock*. www.andygrapko.com

GARY THORNSBERRY—They/Them (*Scenic Design*) is a Professor of Design and Technical Theatre at Berea College. They are also a freelance Scenic Designer with a specific interest in Disability Theatre. If you would like to work with them visit garythornsberry.com. Their upcoming show includes *Topdog/Underdog* and *Euridice* at Berea College. Past productions include *The Last Five Years*, *Sanctuary City*, and *Dot* at Ground Floor Theatre and *La Cage aux Folles*, *Everybody*, and *Ghost Quartet*. They are always excited to be back working with such wonderful people in this amazing space. I hope you have a fantastic show and consider donating to GFT to keep the Austin theatre scene thriving. Have a wonderful show and holiday season.

PATRICK ANTHONY—He/Him (*Lighting Design*) is a freelance lighting and scenic designer based in Austin. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Loyola University: New Orleans, and studied Scene Design at the Lir Academy of Trinity College Dublin. Patrick has worked in the Austin community since 2009, designing over 200 productions of theatre, musical theatre, and dance. Frequent collaborators include Austin Shakespeare, Capital T Theatre, Present Company & The Vortex Repertory Company. He has also designed internationally at the Dublin Fringe Festival. Patrick is the recipient of the 2012, 2016 & 2021 B. Iden Payne award for Outstanding Lighting Design, as well as the 2016 & 2017 Austin Critics' Table Award for Lighting Design. He teaches Stagecraft in the Department of Theatre at Southwestern University.

AARON KUBACAK—He/Him (*Costume Design*) holds an M.F.A. in costume design from the University of Texas at Austin. He is currently the resident costume designer for Butler Opera Center at the University of Texas' School of Music. He's designed for Austin Shakespeare, ZACH Theatre, VORTEX, St. Edward's University, TEXArts, University of Texas' Department of Theatre & Dance, Texas Ballet Theatre and Long Beach Ballet, Timberlake Playhouse and Festival 56 in Illinois and Bigfork Summer Playhouse in Montana. Website: akubdesigns.com.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION TEAM (CONT.)

MICAH MABEY—They/Them (*Video Design*) is a Chicago based theatre maker and digital artist. Known as @micahbutonline on most social platforms. Selected Acting Credits: Lucio in *Measure for Measure* (Olde School Shakespeare Collective), Edgar in *King Lear* (Pigeon Creek Shakespeare), Bobby / Cliff (U.S) / Herr Ludwig (U.S) in *Cabaret* (Parallel 45 Theatre Company, Dir. Kit McKay). Selected Directing Credits: *The Inheritance*, by Mathew López (Parallel 45 Theatre), *Princess Ivona* (Assistant Director) (Trapdoor Theatre). In 2022 Micah was commissioned through Parallel 45 Theatre to adapt and perform in *Hamlet with Bubbles*, a thirty minute adaptation of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, done in the style of French Clown. As always Micah would like to thank their buddy Norm for the constant inspiration.

LIZ TYSON—She/Her (*Prop Design/Set Dressing*) is a freelance designer working in film, television, and theater from Austin, TX. Her recent credits include: Production Design for the short film *Pizza My Heart*, Set Design for Trinity Street Player's production of *Desperately Seeking Comfortable Shoes*, and Prop Design on Filigree Theatre's *Antigone*. This is her first time working with Ground Floor Theatre, and she couldn't be more delighted to be a part of the team behind *Jack & Aiden*!

ERICA MORENO—She/Her (*Graphic Design*) is a local Visual Artist with over 20 years of experience in Graphic Design, Art Direction, and Photography. She enjoys collaborating with people and businesses to help bring their vision to life through posters, logos, websites, print media, illustrations, and portraits. Through her company, *Neat Feak Studio*, Erica also assists with marketing campaigns and automated customer service. She truly enjoys finding creative solutions for every project. You may find Erica's traveling studio at local markets where she showcases her original artwork and apparel designs.

RODD SIMONSEN—He/Him (*Sound Design*) studied Radio, Television and Film at the University of Texas at Austin. He works fulltime as an Audiovisual Design Consultant for BAI, designing theatrical and performance sound systems for theaters, schools, churches and other venues. He is a Theater Sound and Video Designer. This is Rodd's third show designing for Ground Floor Theatre. Rodd also enjoys the challenges of outdoor community theater working with both Zilker Theater Productions and Magnolia Musical Theater on their outdoor summer musicals. He works with many aspiring young technicians from area schools.

JULIE RICHARDSON—She/Her (*Orchestrator*) is a musical theater composer, orchestrator, music director and sound designer. Her musical *Hack, Punt, Tool* written with collaborators Daniel Levine, Rachel Bowens-Rubin, Zara Barryte, and Danbee Kim was produced in 2012 by the MIT Musical Theater Guild, and had a revival with the same group with a revised book and score in 2017. She is currently working on an adaptation of Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse* with collaborator Amy Andrews. Julie is also a YouTube creator with a channel called *Finishing the Score*, in which she invites viewers to follow along with her songwriting journey and learn new skills along the way. Her video topics range from composition and lyric techniques to music software and audio gear. More information about Julie's work can be found at www.jhrichardson.com. She lives in Boston with her wife, daughter and two cats.

ZAC CROFFORD—He/Him (*Video Programming*) is an award-winning puppeteer, performer, technical director, stage manager, designer, and general roustabout. Locally, he has worked with a multitude of companies and productions both on-stage and off over the past 20 years. As the venue manager and technical director for Salvage Vanguard Theater for 10+ years, and co-proprietor of the Austin Scenic Co-op for even longer, he has helped facilitate and support countless artists over the years. As a fabricator, he has built puppets and set elements for local companies, SXSW activations, and been featured at e3. Nationally, he has had the good fortune to tour two different shows with Glass Half Full Theatre, including a week's residency at the Kennedy Center. Currently, he regularly works with tours at the Bass Concert Hall, and the Long Center, and is a photographer, graphic designer, and fabricator. He also has a very good dog. Check him out at spelledlikeitsounds.com.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION TEAM (CONT.)

KELSEY MORINGY—She/Her (*Production Stage Manager*) is a born & raised unicorn of Austin, TX. She studied Performance & Production at Texas State University with an emphasis in Stage Management & Directing. Previous shows Kelsey has stage managed include Ground Floor Theatre and Deaf Austin Theatre's collaborations of *The Last Five Years* and *Next To Normal*, Ground Floor Theatre's *Fun Home*, *rain falls special on me*, *Single Black Female*, *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*, *Dex & Abby*, *TRANSom*, *There & Back*, *Sanctuary City*, and *Anna in The Tropics*, Deaf Austin Theatre's *The Laramie Project*, St. Edward's University's *The Wolves*, and Penfold Theatre's *Ghost Quartet* and *Amadeus*. Kelsey also operated supertitles for Deaf Austin Theatre and ZACH Theatre's collaboration of *Cinderella*. Kelsey's directing credits include *Road To Nirvana*, *Jenna & the Whale* and her original work *Cabaret Wonderland*. Kelsey would like to thank our AMAZING cast & crew for their passion and dedication on this show.

ANDREA NUÑEZ—She/Them (*Stage Manager*) is a graduate from The University of Texas at Austin with a B.A. in the Performer's Process major along with a minor in Sociology. They are currently the Social Media Marketing Manager for Ground Floor Theatre. Andrea has a love for performance and poetry, dabbling in many forms of performative art such as Burlesque and Vogue. Andrea would like to extend her immense gratitude to her colleagues whom have helped her continue to carve a path in the beautiful pursuit of creating vital live theatre.

MAXINE DILLON—She/Her (*Rehearsal Stage Manager*) is a theatermaker with a love of new work and the discovery of new voices. She graduated from Yale University, where she spent more time going to rehearsals than doing her readings. In her time in Austin, Maxine has had the joy of working with Penfold Theatre and Different Stages. She is delighted to have the chance to work with Ground Floor Theatre, both as a stage manager and as a proud member of GFT Writes.

MAISIE JONES—She/Her (*Sound Board Operator*) is an electrician and audio technician living in Georgetown, Texas. She holds a BA in Theatre from Southwestern University and currently works with theatres in Austin. She has worked as a sound technician for Zilker Hillside Theatre (*Matilda*), sound designer for Southwestern University (*Spitfire Grill*, *Ride the Cyclone*) and as a lighting technician for Austin Shakespeare (*Midsummer Night's Dream*), as well as a handful of dance performances across the city. She also traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland to perform at the Fringe Festival with an original group piece, *Ghost Unit: The Live Event*.

MOTLEY CREW MEDIA—Press Representative Founded in 2006 by Amy S. Layton, Motley Crew Media is a full-service boutique marketing and public relations firm with a focused expertise in arts and entertainment. Made up of senior-level experienced PR and marketing specialists, the "Crew" helps clients bring their brand to life in the field through passion and commitment, alongside a keen ability to transform concept and vision into precisely executed reality. Sampling of clients include: aGLIFF, Austin Playhouse, Austin Shakespeare, Broadway Across America, Ground Floor Theatre, Hobby Center, Holland Taylor, Impact Arts, Jaston Williams, LTWA, LTZA, Penfold Theatre Company, Tapestry, Texas Performing Arts, The Lost Gonzo Band, and ZACH Theatre among many others. info@motleycrewmedia.com

ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

KRISTIE CHENG—She/Her (*Violin*) Is a violinist and recent graduate from Southwestern University where she obtained her B.S. in Biology. During her time at SU, she dabbled in technical theatre and played violin in various chamber and large music ensembles. There she studied under teachers including Jessica Mathaes and Patrice Calixte of the Austin Symphony Orchestra. When not in the theatre, Kristie is a biomedical engineering researcher at the University of Texas at Austin. Recent violin credits have included *Little Women* and *The Spitfire Grill* (Southwestern University); *Disney's Newsies* (Zilker Theatre Productions); and *Raven-Winged Hours* (Archive Theatre). This is Kristie's first time playing for the Ground Floor Theatre, and she is excited to be a part of this production of *Jack & Aiden*.

CAROLINE MAGEE—She/Her (*Cello*) is a collaborative and versatile musician with a background in chamber music. During her undergraduate studies at Amherst College, Caroline played cello in a piano trio and frequently collaborated with other musicians on opera and musical theater projects. Since then, she has been a member of the Boston Civic Symphony and currently performs with the Austin Civic Orchestra. When she is not playing the cello, Caroline works as a public health program evaluator focused on nutrition and physical activity access. Caroline is thrilled to play cello for the premiere of *Jack & Aiden*. This is her first production with Ground Floor Theatre.

JESSICA FAGRE—She/Her (*Bass*) is a national and international live, touring, and studio musician and educator specializing in electric and upright bass. She is a graduate of the Los Angeles College of Music, graduating in the field of performance and harmony and theory. She has had the honor of playing for Grammy winners, Tony Award winner Alice Ripley, and American Idol finalists. She has had the opportunity to perform eight USO Tours, and she can be seen in music videos on Fox and MTV as well as appearances on VH1 and KCET. She is honored and thrilled to be a part of *Jack & Aiden*.

STEVIE TRUDELL—He/Him (*Guitar*) is a multi-instrumentalist and audio engineer from Austin. He has been working for almost a decade in musical theater, sound design, studio recording and live band performance. You can find him playing drums in The Foxtones and Marry Cherry, and accompanying, arranging, and composing for live theater and dance performances in town, most often for The Vortex Theatre, Diverse Space Dance Theatre, and Archive Theatre. Recent credits on guitar include *The Last Five Years* and *Next to Normal* (Ground Floor Theatre); *The Lightning Thief* and *Beauty and the Beast* (St. Stephen's Episcopal School); and *Ride the Cyclone* (The University of Texas).

MELODIE ZAPATA—She/Her (*Drums*) began playing drums at age 10 in her school band, about an hour outside of Seattle, Washington. She continued through high school in many groups, including playing various percussion in symphonic bands and wind ensemble, snare drum and quad toms in marching band, drum kit in instrumental and vocal jazz ensembles and then professionally in jazz and rock bands around the Pacific Northwest. At age 18, she earned a full ride college scholarship to study and play drums in the instrumental and vocal jazz ensembles at Olympic College. In her post college career, she has played all over the United States, Canada, and even Singapore. In 2007, she moved to Austin where she had already been playing since 2005 and has been immersed in the music scene ever since!

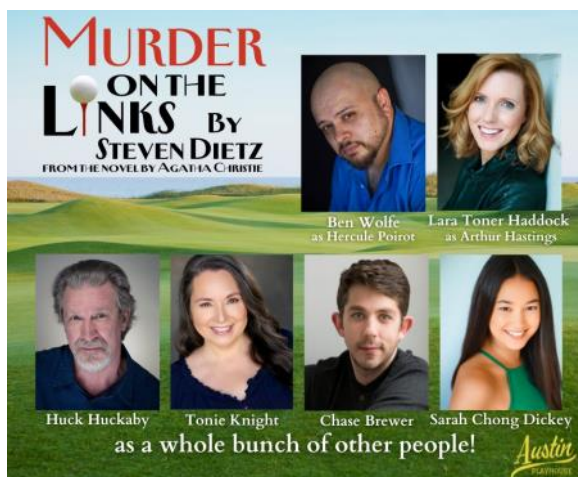
There is a lot of GREAT theatre in Austin

Here is just a taste

ATXTheatre.org

Austin Playhouse — December 1—30

AustinPlayhouse.com



Different Stages — Nov 17 — Dec 9

DifferentStagesTheatre.org



GROUND FLOOR THEATRE

2024 Season

Always A Boy by Jo Ivester & Jeremy Ivester

Directed by Lisa Scheps

February 15—March 2

Clyde's by Lynn Nottage

Directed by Carl Gonzales

May 16—June 1

Pass Over by Antoinette Nwandu

Directed by Simone Alexander

August 15—21

Musical TBD

December 5—21

Info at GroundFloorTheatre.org/2024season

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M E D I A



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This project has been financed in part by City of Austin's Elevate Grant

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT

Jack & Aiden?

We need your help to fund this show. If you'd like to support this production, click the QR code or Venmo

(@GroundFloor) or PayPal (lisa@groundfloortheatre.org). Any amount helps.



We would like to acknowledge that we are on the Indigenous lands of Turtle Island, the ancestral name for what now is called North America.

We would like to acknowledge the Alabama-Coushatta, Caddo, Carrizo/Comecrudo, Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Kickapoo, Lipan Apache, Tonkawa and Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo, and all the American Indian and Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories in Texas.

We would like to acknowledge that historically East Austin has been home to segregated and under-resourced Mexican and Black communities.

As guests, we pay respect to these peoples, past, present, and future, here in their homeland.

SPECIAL THANKS:

Southwestern University, kidsActing, Heather Jarmon, Motorblade, Grayson Hunt, Lauren Ludwig, Anna Skidis Vargas, Talena Martinez, Berea College, Lannie Hilboldt, SJ Anderson.