

THE ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEATRE ARTS PRESENTS
THE MIDWEST & COLLEGE/COLLEGE CONSERVATORY PREMIERE OF

GIANT



MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
MICHAEL JOHN LACHIUSA
BOOK BY
SYBILLE PEARSON

November 17-21 @ 8:00PM

November 22 @ 2:00PM

JEROME MIRZA THEATRE at McPherson Hall

2 Ames Plaza East, Bloomington, IL

THE ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEATRE ARTS PRESENTS

GIANT

Book by **SYBILLE PEARSON**

Music and Lyrics by **MICHAEL JOHN LACHIUSA**

Based on the Novel by **EDNA FERBER**

Set Design by **KRISTIN ELLERT**

Costume Design by **ALEXA WEINZIERL**, *senior BFA Design/Tech*

Lighting Design by **JAY RYAN**

Sound Design by **TOBIAS PELTIER**, USA*

Hair and Wig Design by **MEGAN RUNYARD**, *senior BFA Design/Tech*

Orchestrations by **BRUCE COUGHLIN**

Additional Orchestration by **LARRY HOCHMAN**

Choreography by **EVAN KASPRZAK**, *BFA Music Theatre '10, AEA**

Music Direction by **SAUNDRA DEATHOS-MEERS**, AGMA*

Direction by **SCOTT SUSONG**, SDC*

Originally produced at Signature Theatre, Arlington, Virginia, May 2009
Eric Schaeffer, Artistic Director / Maggie Boland, Managing Director

Original New York Production by The Public Theater, New York,
Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director / Patrick Willingham, Executive Director

Produced by Dallas Theatre Center, Dallas, Texas 2011-2012
Kevin Moriarty, Artistic Director / Heather M. Kitcher, Managing Director

GIANT was originally commissioned and developed by Signature Theatre through the
generous support of THE TED AND MARY JO SHEN CHARITABLE GIFT FUND.

Produced by special arrangements with R&H Theatricals, 229 West 28th Street, 11th Floor,
New York, Ny 10001 www.rnh.com

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COMPANY

(in order of appearance)

Polo Guerra CONOR FINNERTY-ESMONDE, *junior BFA Music Theatre*
Jordan “Bick” Benedict DANNY ADAMS, *junior BFA Music Theatre*
Leslie Lynnton Benedict KELSEY BEARMAN, *senior BFA Music Theatre*
Lupe ALEXA ELDRIDGE, *senior BFA Acting*
Miguel Obregon/ Mariachi Singer CARLOS MEDINA MALDONADO, *senior BFA Acting*
Angel Obregon Sr./ Angel Obregon Jr KENNY TRAN, *junior BFA Music Theatre*
Dimodeo /Hotel Bellboy STEVEN SCHUR, *junior BFA Music Theatre*
Analita, Sr./Analita, Jr LIBBY ZABIT, *sophomore BFA Acting*
Consuela /Hotel Manager CADENCE LAMB, *sophomore BFA Acting*
Jorge/Soldier/Hank (Bodyguard) JEFFREY KELLER, *sophomore BFA Music Theatre*
Mike McCormack/ Representative/
Davis (Bodyguard) EVAN RUMLER, *junior BFA Music Theatre*
Mott “Pinkie”Snythe CHRISTOPHER LONG, *senior BFA Music Theatre*
Bob Dietz, Sr./Bobby Dietz, Jr ELI MILLER, *junior BFA Music Theatre*
Clay/Lord Karfrey/Senator TIMOTHY FOSZCZ, *sophomore BFA Music Theatre*
Mrs. Lynnton/Adarene Morley EMILY HARDESTY, *sophomore BFA Music Theatre*
Luz Benedict JULIA CICCHINO, *senior BFA Music Theatre*
Jett Rink EVAN DOLAN, *senior BFA Music Theatre*
Deluvina Obregon/Hotel Waiter JUNA SHAI, *sophomore BFA Music Theatre*
Vashti Hake Snythe HALEY MILLER, *junior BFA Music Theatre*
Heidi Mueller/ Lady Karfrey (Leigh)/
Jett’s Wife (Annalee) JACLYN SALGADO, *sophomore BFA Music Theatre*
Lona/ Senator’s Wife CATHY COLBURN, *senior BA Theatre*
Uncle Bawley Benedic STEVEN CZAJKOWSKI, *senior BFA Music Theatre*
Lil Luz Benedict LEEANNA STUDT, *junior BFA Music Theatre*
Jordy Benedict, Jr TREV GABEL, *junior BFA Music Theatre*
Juana Guerra Benedict YUKA SEKINE, *junior BFA Music Theatre*

There will be one 15-minute intermission during tonight’s performance.

*Due to the ethnic composition of our student casting pool,
this production has been “color blind” cast.*

The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without a flash, is strictly prohibited. Please silence all electronic devices such as cellular phones and watches. The use of cell phones in the theatre is prohibited by law.

MUSICAL SYNOPSIS

Act I

“Aurelia Dolores” Company
“Did Spring Come to Texas?” Bick
Bawley’s Mountain Cabin-1952 / Reata Ranch, Southwest Texas-1925

“Your Texas” Leslie, Bick
Lynnton Home, Northern Virginia-1925

“No Time for Surprises” Luz
“Private Property” Jett
“Lost” Leslie, Mexican Ensemble
“Outside Your Window” Jett, Leslie
“He Wanted a Girl” Vashti, Bick
“Heartbreak Country” Bick, Leslie
“Ruega por Nosotros” Lupe, Consuela, Deluvina
“Look Back, Look Ahead” Bawley, Company
Reata Ranch, Southwest Texas-1925

“Rochelle” Vashti
“Topsy-Turvy” Leslie, Bick
“When to Bluff/One Day” Jett, Lil Luz, Men
“My Texas” Bick, Vashti, Pinkie, Adarene, Mike, Leslie, Company
Hotel Patio / Benedict Suite, Dallas, Texas-1941

“Act One Finale” Jett, Bick, Company
Reata Ranch, Southwest Texas-1941

Act II

“I Miss Our Mornings/That Thing” Bick, Luz
Reata Ranch, Southwest Texas-1943

“Jump” Angel, Lil Luz, Bobby
“There Is a Child” Juana
“Aurelia Dolores-reprise” Polo
“¡Un Béso, Béso!” Lupe, Analita, Angel, Luz, Company
Reata Ranch, Southwest Texas-1944 /1945

“Place in the World” Bawley, Bick
Bawley’s Mountain Cabin, Southwest Texas-1945

“Conquistador Mariachi” Miguel
“Midnight Blues” Vashti, Leslie
“The Dog is Gonna Bark” Jett
Conquistador Hotel / Benedict Suite / Ballroom, Houston, Texas-1952

“Juana’s Prayer” Juana
Reata Ranch, Southwest Texas-1952

“The Desert” Bick, Leslie
Bawley’s Mountain Cabin, Southwest Texas-December 31, 1952

“Act Two Finale” Jordy, Juana, Company
Reata Ranch, Southwest Texas-December 31, 1952

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

It is challenging for me to express how extraordinary working on *GIANT* has been. As an academic I have unapologetically touted LaChiusa's work to my students and have been fortunate enough to have had the right mix of exceptional students and brave collaborators to present his work twice before at IWU, *Lucky Nurse and Other Short Musical Plays* (2011) and *Hello Again* (2011). Being afforded the opportunity to wrestle with yet another LaChiusa masterpiece has been exhilarating. I was introduced to LaChiusa with the success of *Hello Again* in 1994. Instantly I felt he was my generations' Stephen Sondheim. Like Sondheim, LaChiusa has made a career out of defying audience perceptions of what musical theatre can be. In tackling the unfiltered human condition and characters whose experiences some feel are more appropriately explored in weightier dramas by playwrights like Harold Pinter, Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, Eugene O'Neill or their current descendants, he has intentionally expanded the possibilities for the genre. In a 2006 NY Times article Jesse Green stated, that "one of the raps against Mr. LaChiusa is that his music, despite spanning genres, is too unvaried - a complaint that could be lodged against almost any serious modern composer. Like the modernists he clearly admires - Philip Glass, Ned Rorem, John Adams - he doesn't always structure and signboard the audience's experience with recognizable song forms or tonal clues. Then too, he's repeatedly drawn to raw subject matter; and since he always writes his own lyrics (and usually his own librettos) this means his stamp is especially strong. *Bernarda Alba*, *See What I Wanna See* (based on Ryunosuke Akutagawa's short stories), *Marie Christine* (a Creole transplanted of Medea), and *The Wild Party* (based on the hard-boiled Jazz Age poem) are told in different musical styles, but they are all literary tragedies about hubris, social turmoil and violent death. It's no surprise that they therefore share the very qualities - irregular melodies, unresolved harmonies, jumpy rhythms - that some register as off-puttingly cool." Personally instead of being "off-putting," I find myself leaning into his compositions often identifying with his imperfect characters and equally nuanced music. In a press release for the 2009 Signature Theatre's world premiere of *GIANT* (which I was lucky enough to attend), the writer struggled to think of words to describe the musicals created by LaChiusa. Many came to mind, such as groundbreaking, unconventional, thrilling, bold, original, but ultimately the author stated that his "is a unique voice in the American theater that brings true emotional intensity and deeply complex characters to the stage. Characters like a handful of First Ladies... Van Gogh... Medea... a blackface vaudevillian and his chorine... a tyrannical mother and her unmarried daughters - these tragic figures may seem, to some, unfit for the musical stage, but not to Michael John LaChiusa." He is without question one of the most stimulating contemporary American composers and in *GIANT*, working with Sybille Pearson, he has created his most accessible pieces to date without dropping any of the untidy complexities that have been a hallmark of his earlier work. *GIANT* holds a special resonance for me, having grown up in Southwest Texas just hours from the fictitious Reata location. I feel I recognize this world and these characters, but more importantly to me and to any of you who have experienced being a stranger, have lost a parent while still young, have faced marriage, parenting, ageing, have suffered unrequited love, racial, social and economic injustice, have worried about loss of traditions or modern industries' impact on the environment, have resisted generational divides and the influence of your past over your present and future, and have been humbled by an examination of your place in this world, I hope you too will find deeply personal significance in *GIANT*. What a miraculous opportunity it has been to be permitted to work once again with gifted, authentic, actor/musicians and collaborators on such thought-provoking material. I dedicate this production to my late father, S. Stephen Susong, my siblings, Randall, Deanna and Patrick Susong, my ex-wife Cristen Monson and our children Elijah and Eden Susong. At the core of *GIANT* is the story of two American families, the Benedicts and the Obregons and so, understandably, I have carried my American family, the Susongs, with me through out this experience.

SPECIAL THANKS

MICHAEL JOHN LACHIUSA

ELI AND EDEN SUSONG

HAROLD, MAGGIE, AND GRAY MEERS

KERA STORRS

ASHLEY TICE

MARIAH JOHNSON

BLONo TRADE Co.

KRANNERT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
AT UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY - THEATRE DEPARTMENT

JOHNSON'S SHOE REPAIR

FIESTA RANCHERO

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager	KRISTIN SOLODAR, <i>junior BA Theatre Arts</i>
Asst. Stage Managers	TESS WISHER, <i>junior BA Theatre Arts</i> MEGAN SPERGER, <i>sophomore BFA Music Theatre</i>
Asst. to the Director /Dramaturg	CATHY COLBURN, <i>senior BA Theatre Arts</i>
Asst. to the Music Director	ERICA WERNER, <i>senior BFA Music Theatre</i>
Spanish Language/ Mexican Dialect Coaches	CARLOS MEDINA MALDONADO, <i>senior BFA Acting</i> ALEXA ELDRIDGE, <i>senior BFA Acting</i>
Texas Dialect Coach	CATHY COLBURN, <i>senior BA Theatre Arts</i>
Dance Captain	ELIAS MILLER, <i>junior BFA Music Theatre</i>
Fight Director	JEAN MACFARLAND KERR
Fight Captain	NICK GIAMBRONE, <i>senior BFA Acting</i>
Rehearsal Accompanists	CHARLIE BERGGREN JOLYNN ROBINSON
Asst. Scenic Designer	RYAN FISHER, <i>junior BA Theatre Arts</i>
Asst. Lighting Designer	SUNNIVA HOLMLUND, <i>junior BA Theatre Arts</i>
Technical Director	ARMIE THOMPSON
Asst. Technical Director	HENRY MATTHIENSEN
Asst. Costume Designers	HANNAH SAGE, <i>sophomore BFA Design/Tech</i> ILYSSA KOSOVA, <i>freshman BFA Design/Tech</i> MEGAN RUNYARD, <i>senior BFA Design/Tech</i>
Drapers	ZACHERY ALEXANDER SUSAN HIGH
Hair Designer & Hair/Wig Stylists	MEGAN RUNYARD, <i>senior BFA Design/Tech</i> BROOKE TEWELES, <i>sophomore BFA Acting</i>
Makeup Designers	CASSONDRAS TAKAS, <i>senior BFA Acting</i> CONNOR SPECK, <i>junior BA Theatre Arts</i>
Costume Shop Supervisor	JEANNE OOST
First Hand/Stitcher	MARGARET GOLDRAINER
Properties Master	MADDI WOLF, <i>sophomore BFA Design/Tech</i>
Assistant Properties Manager	LELA CLARK, <i>junior BFA Design/Tech</i>
Props Artisan	KARL GFALL
Stage Electrician	RYAN HIGH
Master Electrician	VIANEY SALAZAR, <i>sophomore BFA Design/Tech</i>
Asst. Master Electrician	HOLDEN GINN, <i>sophomore BFA Music Theatre</i>
Light Board Operator	JEAN MUZA, <i>freshman BFA Acting</i>
Assoc. Sound Designer/Mixer	AJ CHIEN, <i>junior BFA Design/Tech</i>
Asst. Sound Designer/Board Operator/Mixer	DAKOTA KROES, <i>sophomore BFA Design/Tech</i>
Sound Board Operator	AJ CHIEN, <i>junior BFA Design/Tech</i>
Audio 2	OLIVIA SARKIS, <i>freshman BFA Design/Tech</i>
Publicity Coordinator	KELLY J. ULLOM
Assoc. Publicity Coordinator	CAITLIN MCMANUS, <i>senior BA Theatre Arts</i>
Poster Design	KRISTIN ELLERT
Graphic Designer	GARY SCHWARTZ
House Managers	ANNA SCIACCOTTA, <i>senior BFA Acting</i> SARAH SHELBY, <i>senior BFA Design/Tech</i>
Box Office Manager	KELLY J. ULLOM

ORCHESTRA

SAUNDRA DEATHOS MEERS	<i>conductor</i>
CHARLIE BERGGREN	<i>piano</i>
JOLYNN ROBINSON	<i>keyboard</i>
ASA CHURCH	<i>violin</i>
DESIREE HUNTER	<i>viola</i>
CHRISTINA CICHA	<i>cello</i>
JACK GARDNER	<i>upright and electric bass</i>
<i>Bachelor of Music Education, 2017</i>	
ZACH BUCKLEY	<i>guitar</i>
JULIE KASA	<i>reed 1</i>
<i>principal accompanist for Theatre</i>	
DENISE HODGES	<i>reed 2</i>
MAXWELL ARNOLD	<i>reed 3</i>
<i>Bachelor of Music Education, 2019</i>	
JEREMY GRUNER	<i>trumpet 1</i>
<i>Bachelor of Music Education, 2016</i>	
AARON WASHINGTON	<i>trumpet 2</i>
PHILIP BERTRAND	<i>trombone</i>
<i>Bachelor of Music, 2016</i>	
ROB KUNTZ	<i>percussion</i>
<i>Bachelor of Music in Contemporary Musicianship, 2018</i>	

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Costume Shop Assistants

AIDA CHEUNG, ALEXA ELDRIDGE, ELIZABETH FERRIS, TREV GABEL,
LIBBY HART, DAKOTA KROES, HANNAH SAGE, JACKIE SALGADO,
CONNOR O. SPECK, BROOKE TEWELES, ALEXA WEINZIERL, LIBBY ZABIT

Scene Shop Assistants/Facilities Manager

GIANA BIDDLE, LELA CLARK, RYAN FISHER, DARIAN HARDWICK, SHELBY KORTE,
SARAH SADOWSKI, VIANEY SALAZAR, OLIVIA SARKIS, TYLER STACEY, ALEC SUTTON,
TUXFORD TURNER, TESS WISHER, MADDI WOLF

Lighting and Sound Shop Assistants

AJ CHIEN, BUCKY EMMERLING

Theatre Office/Box Office/Photography/ Publicity/Research Assistants

KELSEY BEARMAN, NICK GIAMBRONE, JENIA HEAD, KAT HOTH,
ANNA KERR-CARPENTER, HAILEY LEHELDT, CHRIS LONG, CAITLIN MCMANUS,
AN NGUYEN, ANNA SCIACCOTTA, JUNA SHAI, SARAH SHELBY, LEEANNA STUDT

PRODUCTION CREWS

Wardrobe Crew

MAGGIE PATCHETT (Crew Head),
senior BA Theatre Arts

RYANN CHIODA, (Asst. Crew Head),
sophomore BA Theatre Arts major

DANA CLOUSER,
sophomore BFA Music Theatre

JOANNA DOOLEY,
freshman BFA Music Theatre

LENA KINCAID,
freshman BA Theatre Arts

SHELBY KORTE,
freshman BFA Acting

ILYSSA KOSOVA,
freshman BFA Design/Tech

KAMILAH LAY,
freshman BFA Music Theatre

EMMA MATHEWS-LINGEN,
freshman BA Theatre Arts

CATHERINE MOJSIEWICZ,
freshman BA Theatre Arts

KARA RYAN,
freshman BFA Music Theatre

CAMI TOKOWITZ,
freshman BFA Acting

ROBERT WILSON,
freshman BFA Music Theatre

Run Crew

KAT HOTH (Crew Head),
junior BA Theatre Arts

JACE LEGARDE,
freshman BFA Music Theatre

JESSICA MCGREW,
freshman BFA Music Theatre

WHITNEY MELTZ,
freshman BFA Design/Tech

TUXFORD TURNER,
freshman BFA Acting

KAELIN REICHMANN,
freshman BA Theatre Arts

CONNOR WIDELKA,
freshman BA Theatre Arts

Fly Crew:

NICK VALDIVIA (Crew Head),
freshman BFA Design/Tech

Light Hang Electricians

MEGAN LAI,
freshman BFA Acting

FORREST LOEFFLER,
senior BFA Acting

ISAIAH MCBRIDE,
freshman BFA Music Theatre

CATHERINE MOJSIEWICZ,
freshman BA Theatre Arts

WILL MUELLER,
freshman BFA Acting

ANDREW NEELEY,
freshman BA Theatre Arts

ALEA RODRIGUEZ,
freshman BFA Acting

OLIVIA SARKIS,
freshman BFA Design/Tech

NICK VALDIVIA,
freshman BFA Design/Tech

ANNIE WARNKE,
freshman BA Theatre Arts

Follow Spot Operators

DEAN CARLSON,
junior BFA Acting

DANA LASSWELL,
sophomore BA Theatre Arts

Ushers

KIERSTEN BERGQUIST,
sophomore Theatre Arts minor

ELIZABETH FERRIS,
junior BFA Acting

MEGAN LAI,
freshman BFA Acting

HAILEY LEHELDT,
sophomore BFA Acting

CAITLIN MCMANUS,
senior BA Theatre Arts

WILL MUELLER,
freshman BFA Acting

ANDREW NEELEY,
freshman BA Theatre Arts

ANNA SCIACCOTTA,
senior BFA Acting

SARAH SHELBY,
senior BFA Design/Tech

SHAURYAVEER SINGH GULIA,
freshman BA Theatre Arts

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEATRE ARTS FACULTY

THOMAS A. QUINN . . .	Associate Professor/ Director of the School of Theatre Arts
NANCY B. LOITZ	Professor of Theatre Arts
CURTIS C. TROUT	Professor of Theatre Arts
JEAN MACFARLAND KERR	Associate Professor of Theatre Arts
MARCIA K. McDONALD	Associate Professor of Theatre Arts
SCOTT SUSONG	Associate Professor of Theatre Arts
DANI SNYDER-YOUNG	Associate Professor of Theatre Arts
SAUNDRA DEATHOS-MEERS	Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts
JAY RYAN	Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts

ADJUNCT FACULTY AND STAFF

CHARLIE BERGGREN	Music Theatre Accompanist
EKATERINE BEZIRGANI	Dance
GRETCHEN CHURCH	Music Theory/Keyboard
CHRIS CONNELLY	Acting/Directing
MAGGIE CORNYN	Dance
RON EMMONS	Dramatic Literature
RYAN HIGH	Production Electrician
JULIE KASA	Music Theatre Accompanist
LYUDA KIZER	Acting
SHERI MARLEY	Dance
HENRY MATTHIESSEN	Production Carpenter
SAUL NACHE	Music Theatre Voice
JEANNE OOST	Costume Shop Supervisor
NATALIE PITCHFORD	Music Theatre Voice
KEVIN RICH	Stage Voice
JESSICA RISS-WALTRIP	Dance
JOLYNN ROBINSON	Music Theatre Accompanist
ARMIE THOMPSON	Technical Director/Production Manager
KELLY J. ULLOM	Theatre Operations Coordinator
NIKKI WRIGHT	Recruiting Coordinator



**Illinois Wesleyan University
School of Theatre Arts
2015-2016 Season**

*In the Jerome Mirza Theatre
at McPherson Hall*

HAMLET

by William Shakespeare

February 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 @ 8:00PM

February 28 @ 2:00PM

FAME, the musical

Conceived and developed by David De Silva

Book by Jose Fernandez

Lyrics by Jacques Levy

Music by Steve Margoshes

Title Song "Fame" written by Dean Pitchford and Michael Gore

April 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 @ 8:00PM / April 17 @ 2:00PM

*In the E. Melba Johnson Kirkpatrick
Laboratory Theatre*

KLAUZAL SQUARE

by Sarah Gancher

February 7, 8, 9 @ 8:00PM

BODY AWARENESS

by Annie Baker

May 21, 22, 23 @ 8:00PM