

Trial By Jury

by Gilbert and Sullivan



Audrey Chait, Director

Damon Stevens, Musical Director

Tickets: nku.edu/tickets

April 5 - 7:00 PM

April 7 - 3:00 PM

Greaves Concert Hall

SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Kimberly Lazzeri • Dr. Joy Burdette • Kyle Malesevich • Michael W. Hatton
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GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S TRIAL BY JURY

April 5 & 7, 2024
Greaves Concert Hall

Directed by
Audrey Chait

Music Director
Damon Stevens

CAST LIST

The Learned Judge	Connor Defevers
The Plaintiff (Angelina)	Meg Booker
The Defendant (Edwin)	James Renton
Counsel for the Plaintiff	Josh Turner
Usher	Michael Kirby
Foreman of the Jury	Zach Petrie
Ensemble	Caesar Bao, Dylan Castle, Tasha Conzelman, Clara Cundick, Liv Gudmundsson, Isabel Harper, Abby Johnson, Madisyn Kelley, Lily Lamb, Kimberly Legel, Yolee Louis, Afton Skeeters, Katelyn Thatcher, Annabelle Walls
Piano	Damon Stevens

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Audrey Chait
Music Director	Damon Stevens
Costume Designer	Allison Jones
Lighting Designer	Kyle Malesevich
Stage Manager	Joanna Chapman
Production Photographer	Tammy Cassesa
Box Office Manager	Becca McNay
Box Office and Event Assistants	Hunter, Broyles, Gabby Casto, Tasha Conzelman, Kiley Ernst, Maggie Komp, Elliot Malatesta, Elijah Medsker, Chandler Murray
Program Head, Music	Kurt Sander
Program Head, Theatre & Dance	Michael W. Hatton
Associate Director, SOTA	Ronald A. Shaw
Director, SOTA	Matthew Albritton

SYNOPSIS:

Can you sue someone for breaking off an engagement? In Gilbert and Sullivan's courtroom farce *Trial by Jury*, it is a serious crime indeed. The fickle defendant, Edwin, has fallen in love with another woman and has jilted the plaintiff, the beautiful Angelina. Though she no longer loves Edwin, Angelina is determined to make him pay for humiliating her. Unfortunately for Edwin, all of the members of the jury (and the judge) have fallen for Angelina themselves. Edwin proposes that in order to solve the conflict, he "marry this lady today and the other tomorrow," which, naturally, Angelina objects to. Can the finest legal minds in Britain find a solution to this seemingly impossible dilemma?

PROFILES

Audrey Chait (Director) is a director, writer, and producer of opera and theater. She is on the artistic staff at Cincinnati Opera, and has been a member of the NKU music department faculty since 2019. Favorite recent directing credits include *Carmen* for the Reno Philharmonic, *L'elisir d'amore* and *La fille du regiment* for Winter Opera St. Louis, *Proving Up*, *Don Pasquale*, and *La Cenerentola* for Opera Las Vegas, *L'inganno felice* for Opera Southwest, *The Bartered Bride*, *Dinner at Eight*, and the *Bach St. John Passion* for CCM, and *Scalia/Ginsburg* with Opera North. Her new libretto adaptation of *The Elixir of Love* premiered at Tri-Cities Opera in May 2021. Ms. Chait holds a BA in Literary Arts from Brown University and an Artist Diploma from CCM.

Damon Stevens (Music Director), serves as a music director for Northern Kentucky University's Mainstage Production Season and as director of NKU's freshman Broadway Chorus. Recent music directing credits include NKU's regional premieres of *The Lightning Thief* and *Freaky Friday* as well as *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *Big Fish*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Into the Woods*, and many more. He has also music directed *Some Enchanted Evening* and *Nunsense* for NKU's Commonwealth Theatre Company, and is a frequent collaborator with the NKU Music Program where he has music directed many successful opera productions including *La Canterina*, *Gallantry*, *Dido and Aeneas*, *The Tender Land*, and others.

When not at NKU, Dr. Stevens is in demand as a music director in the greater Cincinnati area. Regional music directing credits include *Footloose*, *Newsies*, *Once On This Island*, and *The Producers* for the Warsaw Federal Incline Theatre, and *Chicago* for The Carnegie. Dr. Stevens previously served on faculty at the University of Nevada (UNR) for nearly a decade. There he directed the University's award-winning Nevada Chamber Opera and music directed for the Nevada Repertory Company. He is also the composer and librettist for his musical for children, *It's All Greek to Me*, which has received performances in Tennessee and Nevada as part of Reno's Artown season. In addition to music directing, Dr. Stevens has served as a vocal coach for Cincinnati Artswave's CincySings competition and as a regular adjudicator for the Overture Awards. He holds degrees from Arizona State University and the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music where he also served on the teaching faculty. Dr. Stevens has performed both as soloist and collaborative pianist throughout the United States and Europe in such diverse venues as radio, television, and concert halls.

Allison Jones (Costume Designer) holds an MFA from Purdue University and a BA from NKU. She's designed costumes for The Carnegie Theatre including *Singin in the Rain* and *Rent*, The Phoenix Theatre, Eclipse Theatre including *Heather the Musical*, Summer Stock Stage, Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, The Covedale Center for Performing Arts, The Warsaw Federal Incline Theatre, Wabash College, and Cincinnati Landmark Productions including *Kiss Me Kate*. She is eager to return to NKU, having been the Costume Designer for the last two seasons' operas and other productions including *La Canterina*, *Signor Deluso*, *Tick, Tick...Boom!*, and *Songs for a New World*. Thank you to my husband, my new beautiful baby girl, my cat, and all my family and friends who continue to support me and my art. Although she currently resides in Indiana, Northern Kentucky is her home away from home. allisonjonescostumes.com.

Caesar Bao (Ensemble/Jury) // B.S. Statistics / Music Minor

NKU: Northern Chorale, Low Voice Choir (Member)

Meg Booker (Plaintiff/Angelina) // B.A. Vocal Performance

NKU: La Canterina (Gasparina) // **Canto Vocal Program:** Suor Angelica (Chorus), La Boheme (Chorus);

Kentucky Opera: Dead Man Walking (Chorus)

Dylan Castle (Ensemble/Jury) // B.M.E. Vocal

NKU: The Henry Konstantinow Student Theatre: *Little Women The Musical* (John Brooke)

Tasha Conzelman (Ensemble/Bridesmaid) // B.F.A. Theatre Performance (Musical Theatre)

NKU: It's A Grand Night for Singing (Alto/Alyson), 9 to 5 The Musical (Kathy)

Connor Defevers (The Learned Judge) // B.F.A. Theatre Performance (Musical Theatre)

NKU: Amelie: The Musical (Garden Gnome/Blind Beggar), First Year Showcase 2023 (Actor/Director) //

Cincinnati Actor's Student & Academy: The Wolves (Assistant Director); **Commonwealth Student**

Artist Theatre: The Ferryman (Uncle Patrick Carney), Indecent (Asch); **Performing Arts Incorporated:**

9 to 5 (Franklin Hart Jr.)

Liv Gudmundsson (Ensemble/Bridesmaid) // B.F.A. Theatre Performance (Musical Theatre)

NKU: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (Mrs. Shears/Ensemble), Macbeth (Witch 1)

// **The Henry Konstantinow Studio Theatre:** Sunday in the Park with George (Celeste #2/Elaine);

Kentucky Country Day School: Into the Woods (Cinderella)

Isabel Harper (Ensemble/Jury) // B.F.A. Theatre Performance (Musical Theatre)

NKU: Macbeth (Hecate) // **Cincinnati Actor's Studio and Academy:** The Odd Couple (Mickey), The

Wolves (#11); **The Refuge Center for the Arts:** Ride the Cyclone (Constance Blackwood); **Shelby County**

Community Theatre: Spamlot (Ensemble)

Abby Johnson (Ensemble/Bridesmaid) // B.A. Liberal Studies (Vocal) / Psychology Minor

NKU: Vocal Jazz Ensemble (Member)

Madisyn Kelley (Ensemble/Bridesmaid) // B.A. Theatre Arts

NKU: First Year Showcase 2021 (Company), Dance '24 (Assistant Costume Designer) // **Stage Right**

Musical Theater Company: Annie (Mrs. Pugh / Connie Boylan), **Cincy Fringe Festival:** Today!

(Descendant), **Kincaid Regional Theater:** The Winter Wonderettes (Suzy), A Country Christmas Carol

(Belle)

Michael Kirby (Usher) // B.F.A. Theatre Performance (Musical Theatre)

NKU: Amelie The Musical (Julien Dufayel), Macbeth (Bloody Captain)

Lily Lamb (Ensemble/Jury) // B.A. Liberal Studies (Music)

Kimberly Legel (Ensemble/Jury) // B.M. Vocal Music Performance

NKU: Chamber Choir, Vocal Jazz Ensemble (Member)

Zachary Petrie (Foreman of the Jury) // B.F.A. Theatre Performance (Musical Theatre)

NKU: Amelie The Musical (Hipolito Jeunet / Elton John), First Year Showcase 2023 (Company) //

Commonwealth Artists Student Theater: Mean Girls (Aaron Samuels), **Kincaid Regional Theater:**

Newsies (Jack Kelly)

Afton Skeeters (Ensemble/Bridesmaid) // B.F.A. Theatre Performance (Musical Theatre)

NKU: First Year Showcase 2023 (Student Director/Actor), 9 to 5 The Musical (Wardrobe Run Crew) //

InnOvation Arts Academy: Mary Poppins (Mary Poppins), 13 (Patrice), Into the Woods (The Witch), High

School Musical (Gabriella Montez)

Katelyn Thatcher (Ensemble/Jury) // B.F.A. Theatre Performance (Musical Theatre)

NKU: First Year Showcase 2023 (Company) // **Great Crossing High School:** Mean Girls (Gretchen

Wieners); **Youth Theatre of the Bluegrass:** James and the Giant Peach JR (Spider); **Woodford Theater**

Young Artists: Singin in the Rain (Cosmo Brown)

Josh Turner (Counsel for the Plaintiff) // B.M. Music Performance (Vocal)

NKU: La Canterina (Stage Manager) // **Ryle High School:** Seussical (Horton), Something Rotten

(Nostradamus), An Evening of Culture (Delbert Fink)

Annabelle Walls (Ensemble/Jury) // B.A. Liberal Arts (Music)

NKU: A Grand Night for Singing (Crew)