

**Hub Theatre Company of Boston
Presents**

The **UNDERSTUDY**

Written By

Theresa Rebeck

Creator of the Hit Show

SMASH

Directed By

Paula Plum



**Club Café
209 Columbus Ave
July 19 - August 2**

**All tickets for all shows are
PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN**

www.hubtheatreboston.org



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The Understudy

By Theresa Rebeck

Directed by Paula Plum



Kevin Paquette



Cristhian
Mancinas-Garcia



Lauren Elias

PRODUCTION TEAM

Lauren Elias	Producer
Mea SanGiacomo	Stage Manager
Nate Kelleher	Assistant Stage Manager & Fight Choreographer
Kiki Samko	Choreographer
Peyton Tavares	Scenic Designer
Justin Lahue	Projections Designer
Maggie Shivers	Projections Assistant
Samantha Mastrati	Prop Designer
Gage Baker	Sound Designer
Emily Bearce	Lighting Designer
Kara McGuinness	Costume Designer
Kelsey Whipple	Production Manager
Lauren A. Cook	Intimacy Choreographer
Katie Kuan-Yu Chen	AI
Colin McIntire	Poster art

Time & Place: The Present Day. Backstage. A put-in rehearsal

The play runs approximately 100 minutes with no intermission

CONSIDER YOURSELF WARNED: this play includes firearms, strobe lights, profanity, kissing, and farcical violence. It also contains heaping doses of self-pity, failed relationships and obscure references to Kafka's life and works.

Lights, Camera, Mayhem! Welcome to *The Understudy* the first show of Hub's thirteenth season. From Theresa Rebeck, the acclaimed creator of *Smash*, comes a biting witty satire about Broadway dreams and backstage nightmares. When Harry, a hapless understudy, Roxanne, a frazzled stage manager and Jake, an up-and-coming Hollywood hunk collide in rehearsal for a newly discovered Kafka masterpiece, things quickly spiral out of control. As tempers flare, tensions rise and the stoned stage crew goes rogue, a routine run-through turns into a full-blown disaster. Will the show still go on? Get ready for misplaced props, oversized egos and lots of laughs in this show perfect for theatre lovers and haters alike!

We are enormously pleased to welcome back Hub Theatre favorite Paula Plum to direct this production; please see her note below about the play. After this we're hoping to announce some special events and our next season, so please subscribe to our mailing list and follow us on social media for all the exciting details.

Thank you for supporting live theatre - as you know, we are Boston's only pay-what-you-can theatre, every show, every seat, every time, and we appreciate your support. Enjoy the show!

What is an Understudy? An Understudy is a skilled and professionally trained actor who spends countless hours memorizing a part in a play in which she/he will never appear. It is an actor who attends rehearsals watching another actor play their part, knowing that they themselves may never get to play that role. Being an Understudy means always being ready to be of service. And it can also mean facing the terrifying moment the actor you are "covering" suddenly gets sick and with no warning, you're on, baby!

In my early 30's I understudied 12 plays at one of the larger theaters in town. I never learned so much at university as I did watching great artists in that rehearsal room; Maryann Plunkett, Estelle Parsons, and Roberta Maxwell to name three. I had several "close calls" and only one performance in all those years. — it's truly a thankless job and not for the faint of heart.

In our little play tonight, Theresa Rebeck explores the plight of one such creature, and delves wittily into the tribulations of a life in the theatre. We hope you enjoy this peek behind the curtain!

- Paula Plum

CAST

CRISTHIAN MANCINAS-GARCÍA (Jake) is excited to return to the Hub Theatre Company stage, having appeared last as Judas in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. Some of his favorite credits include Judge Brack in *Hedda Gabler*, The Narrator in *Every Brilliant Thing* (Elliot Norton Award Nominee, Outstanding Solo Performance) and Jacob in *Lunch Bunch*, all with Apollinaire Theatre Company; Abel in *Fade* and Richie in *619 Hendricks* (Elliot Norton Award Nominee, Outstanding Lead Performance) with Teatro Chelsea; Ed Reiss in *Torch Song* and Mr. Black in *The Wild Party* with Moonbox Productions; Henry David Thoreau in *Nature: A Walking Play* with TigerLion Arts; Rae/Reynaldo in *Noir Hamlet* with Centastage (Boston premiere and Edinburgh Festival Fringe tour). Cristhian has been performing for over 20 years on stages in México, the USA, and the UK. www.cristhianmancinas.com

KEVIN PAQUETTE (Harry) is thrilled to be back with Hub Theatre Company, having previously appeared in *Lebensraum* and *Loot*. Favorite credits include: *Revolution's Edge* (Plays In Place), *The Birthday Party* (Praxis Stage), *Bad Jews* (Yorick Ensemble), *Bad Hamlet* and *Our Town With Zombies!* (Providence Fringe) *The Walk Across America For Mother Earth* (Circuit Theatre Company), *An Education In Prudence* (Open Theatre Project), and *A Southern Victory* (Vagabond Theatre Group). As an improviser he is currently a cast member of *Dirty Disney*, which performs at Lil' Chuck and Laugh Boston, as well as *Love Is Blind: The Improvised Musical*, which recently had a run at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival. TRAINING: Company One, Improv Boston, Second City Conservatory.

LAUREN ELIAS (Roxanne) Selected area acting credits include Hub Theatre's *Tartuffe* (Elliot Norton Award Nominee- Outstanding Actor and Outstanding Production), *The Book of Will*, *Into The Breeches!* (Elliot Norton Award Nominee- Outstanding Production), *Love, Loss and What I Wore*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Peter and the Starcatcher* (IRNE Award Nominee-Best Play/Best Ensemble), *Wit* (IRNE Award nominee-Best Supporting Actress); *As Bees In Honey Drown* Theatre UnCorked; *Arlekin Player's Witness*; *Hovey Player's Well*; *Dream Role Player's As You Like It*, *Twelfth Night*; The Misfit Artist Company's *The Crucible*; The Gold Dust Orphans' *Murder on the Polar Express*; Central Square Theatre's *Body and Soul*; Happy Medium's *Romeo and Juliet*, Heart and Dagger's *Polaroid Stories* (IRNE Award nominee- Best Ensemble), SpeakEasy Stage's workshop production of *The Blue Room*; Amazing Things' *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* (EMACT DASH award nominee); and Commonwealth Shakespeare's *Othello*. Regional credits include Connecticut Free Shakespeare, Act 2 Theater and AlphaNYC Theatre Co. Look for Lauren being confused by grocery shopping and failing at mediation in commercials for Hannaford Supermarkets and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care. Much love and gratitude to Paula and this amazing team for all their hard work and dedication.

PRODUCTION TEAM

PAULA PLUM (Director) has previously directed four shows for Hub Theatre Company: *Steel Magnolias*, *Waiting for Godot*, and two productions of *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*. Other directing credits include work with Greater Boston Stage Company, The Lyric Stage, Merrimack Repertory, Actors' Shakespeare Project, Central Square Theatre and the Boston Pops. Paula served as Artistic Director of WGBH's *A Christmas Celtic Sojourn* from 2003 through 2019 and as Interim Artistic Director of Gloucester Stage for their 2022 season. Paula is the recipient of the Elliot Norton Award for Sustained Excellence, six IRNE awards, four Elliot Norton Awards for Outstanding Actress, and was the 2003 Distinguished Alumna of Boston University's College of Fine Arts. She is married to actor Richard Snee and is a professional acting coach at paulaplum.com.

MEA SANGIACOMO (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be a part of this production of *The Understudy!* Her recent credits include *Exception to the Rule* (ASM) with Front Porch Arts Collective, and a return to her alma mater Suffolk University for *dramandemocracy* (PSM). Mea is especially excited to be working on her first production with the Hub Theatre!

NATE KELLEHER (Asst. Stage Manager & Fight Choreographer) is so excited to be working with such a fantastic team on his debut Hub Theatre show. In addition to this, he's working on CSC's annual Shakespeare on the Common production and producing work with up-and-coming non-profit arts organization Revolution StageWorks. Recent Stage Management work includes: *dramandemocracy* and *Midsummer; Kinda?* (Suffolk University Theatre Department) Production Management: *Career Man* (Suffolk University Theatre Department with Revolution StageWorks) *School of Rock* (Manchester SummerStage)

KIKI SAMKO (Choreographer) is a feminist, fashionista, fitness enthusiast, and fringe theatre-maker. Past credits with Hub include *Burn This* (Anna); *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* (Assistant & Movement Director); and *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Movement). Her work onstage as a director, performer, and choreographer has been critically acclaimed. She is director in residence and ensemble member with the Gold Dust Orphans and a frequent collaborator with imaginary beasts, where she co-writes, choreographs, and performs in their annual Panto. She trained in dance at the Dance Place in Arlington and Mary Flynn Murphy Dance Studio in Somerville, as well as at Tufts University, and the Actor's Movement Studio in New York City. She lives in Boston with her Small Witch, Diane von Purrsenburg. www.kikisamko.com

PEYTON TAVARES (Scenic Designer) is a freelance designer located in Boston. She is happy to return to Hub Theatre Company where she previously designed *The Book Of Will*. Favorite credits include: *Urinetown* (Yale Dramatic Association) *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Moonbox productions) *Hoops* (Company one) *The Mad Ones* and *Alice By Heart* (Boston Conservatory) *Let The Right One In* (Boston University with Actors Shakespeare project.) And *Jado Jehad* (Boston Playwrights Theatre). She holds an MFA in Scenic Design from Boston University and a BA in Scenic Design and Directing from Marymount Manhattan College. Find her online at Peytontavares.com and follow her on Instagram at *Peyton5656*

EMILY BEARCE she/they (Lighting Design) is a New England based lighting designer. She is excited to work with the Hub Theatre again after previously designing lights for *46 Plays For America's First Ladies*, *Burn This* and *Slow Food*. ebearce.com

GAGE BAKER (Sound Designer) is a Boston-based sound designer returning to work with the Hub Theatre after designing last summer's *46 Plays for America's First Ladies*. Credits include SpeakEasy Stage (*A Man of No Importance*, *Pru Payne*, *The Museum of Broken Relationships*), Catastrophic Theatre (*The Turn of the Screw*, *Innominate*), Rec Room (*The Children*, *The Moonlit Princess*, *Dance Nation*), Boston Playwright's Theatre (*Driving in Circles*), and Moonbox Productions (*Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Legally Blonde*). Upcoming projects include *Driving in Circles* at Edinburgh Fringe and the return of *Library Lion* at the Calderwood Pavilion. His sound design for Wheelock Family Theatre's *The SpongeBob Musical* recently won an Elliot Norton Award. He is an alum of Boston University (MFA), mixes the Boston company of *Blue Man Group*, and is a proud member of the United Scenic Artists' Union gagebaker.com

KARA MCGUINNESS (Costume Designer) is excited to be working on her first production with Hub Theatre! Kara is a Boston-based costume designer who recently graduated from Boston College, where she costumed over ten productions. Some of her favorite credits include *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, *Inherit the Wind*, and *Be More Chill*. Kara also served as a costume coordinator for The American Repertory Theater's production of *The Odyssey* and is costume designing two productions with Tufts' Magic Circle Children's Theatre. karamcguinnessdesign.com.

JUSTIN LAHUE (Projections Designer) is a Boston based theatre artist and filmmaker. Hub credits: *Tartuffe* (Elliot Norton nomination, outstanding scenic design) *46 Plays For America's First Ladies*, *Burn This*, *Love, Loss and What I Wore*, *Into the Breeches*, *Slow Food*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Solitaire Suite*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, *The Clearing*. Previous collaborations include work with Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, Speakeasy Stage, Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater, Boston Conservatory, Harbor Stage Company, Northeastern University, Wheelock Family Theatre, Firehouse Center for the Arts, Seacoast Repertory Theatre, and New Hampshire Theatre Project. He is the recipient of a 2022 BroadwayWorld Boston award (best professional scenic design | *Straight White Men*), as well as a 2022 Cannes Film Award and regional Emmy nomination in art direction for the feature film *Not on This Night*. BA in Theatre, Suffolk University. For more information on his work, please visit www.justinlahue.com.

SAM MASTRATI (Prop Designer) is an artist from the greater Boston area. Her focus lies in the performing arts, working behind the scenes as a scenic designer and scenic artist. She is currently working as a scenic artist at a local scene shop, Wooden Kiwi Productions and graduated from Boston University's School of Theatre with a BFA in Scenic Design. If you would like to see more of her work visit <https://samzm4.wixsite.com/samanthamastrati>

LAUREN A. COOK (Intimacy Choreographer) is a Boston-based stage director, intimacy choreographer, voice teacher, and sometimes actor. Commonwealth Shakespeare Company: *Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol,' 'A Midsummer Night's Dream* (ARC); Hub Theatre Company: *Tartuffe, Book of Will, Burn This*; MassOpera, Boston Lyric Opera: *Eurydice*, Boston Conservatory Opera: *Summer & Smoke*, and Lowell House Opera at Harvard University: *Nighttown* (world premiere, winner of the 2023 American Prize in composition). Other world premieres include a staged reading of international best-selling author Hope Jahren's inaugural theatrical work, *Waiting for Cain*. She holds a Master of Music degree in Vocal Pedagogy from the Boston Conservatory at Berklee and her writing on consent-based performing arts education is featured in *Trauma and the Voice: A Guide for Singers, Teachers, and Other Practitioners*, published by Rowman & Littlefield.

KELSEY WHIPPLE (Production Manager) Production Management: *46 Plays For America's First Ladies* (Hub Theatre Company) *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, CSC Apprentice Program in 2022 and 2024 (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company) Stage Management: *Metamorphoses* (PSM, Arlington Children's Theatre); *Book of Will*, *Into the Breeches!* (PSM, Hub Theatre Company); *Bud, Not Buddy* (PSM, Wheelock Family Theatre); *Seven Guitars, Merchant of Venice* (ASM, Actors' Shakespeare Project); *Marriage of Figaro* (Boston Opera Collaborative). Other work: Production Business administrator in the Office of the Arts at Emerson College, Choreographer for Suffolk University's Rampage.

SPECIAL THANKS

Club Cafe, Boston Center for the Arts, Madison Park Development, The Dewitt Center, Prop Co-op, Suffolk University, Alma Elias, Kristin MacDougall, Thomas Capelli, Kai Chao, Taylor Kaufman, Ballsquare Films



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Lauren Elias – Producing Artistic Director
Daniel Bourque – Associate Artistic Director



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PRODUCTION HISTORY 2013 - 2024

2013 • *Lebensraum* • *Love, Loss & What I Wore* • *Goodly Creatures* • *Sand Mountain* • **2014** • *Three Days of Rain* • *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* • *6 Hotels* • **2015** • *Loot* • *Laughing Wild* • *The Love of the Nightingale* • **2016** • *"Art"* • *The Good Body* • *Wit* • **2017** • *Coyote on a Fence* • *Waiting for Waiting for Godot* • *Robyn is Happy* • **2018** • *True West* • *The Taming* • *Peter and the Starcatcher* • **2019** • *The Clearing* • *Steel Magnolias* • *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* • **2020** • *Intermittent Dreams* • *Much Ado About Nothing* • **2021** • *Solitaire Suite* • *Love's Labour's Lost* • **2022** • *Slow Food* • *Into The Breeches!* • **2023** • *Love, Loss & What I Wore* • *The Book of Will* • **2024** • *Burn This* • *46 Plays for America's First Ladies* • *Tartuffe* •

2025 Hub Theatre Company of Boston Season

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