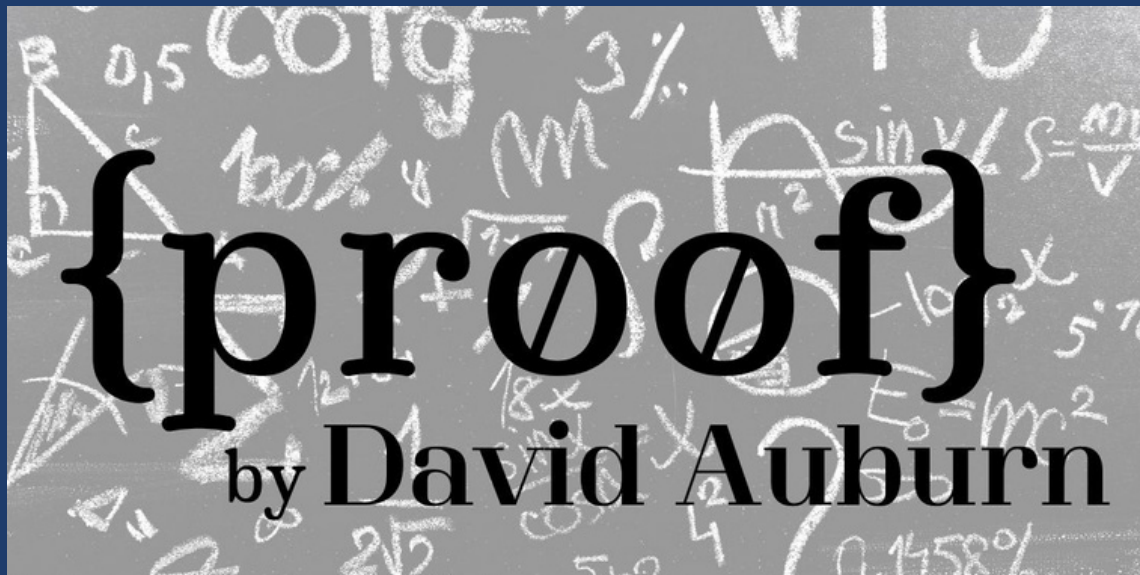


HARPER ENSEMBLE THEATRE, CULTURAL ARTS
COMMITTEE, AND LIBERAL ARTS DIVISION PRESENTS



WINNER OF THE 2001 PULITZER PRIZE AND TONY AWARD FOR BEST PLAY

DIRECTED BY LAURA PULIO COLBERT

Fall 2022 - Drama Lab Theatre

Tickets: harpercollege.edu/boxoffice

Or call 847.925.6100

From the Director . . .

Good art can help us appreciate a gift that may not always feel like a blessing. I am a baby-boomer who considers herself lucky to have two living parents at my age. My mother is still as sharp as a tack but has slowed down physically. My father is a different story. Always a physical force to be reckoned with, this well-respected mechanical engineer (who happens to hold the patent for several cell phone casings via Motorola Inc.), has slowed down considerably.

As a result, words don't come as quickly; faces are not as familiar, and fear seems to drive him more than any other emotion. I suppose this is only natural, as a result of living almost 90 years, but it's also heartbreaking to experience as the child in this equation.

Our exploration of *PROOF* by David Auburn brings insight to living and caring for those suffering from dementia. I hope that tonight's performance helps you to count all your blessings, as it has helped me to appreciate my own.

Peace,
Laura Pulio Colbert
Director of Theatre

With consideration for all our patrons . . . Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the management. During the performance, please refrain from unwrapping candy or making other noises that may disturb others. Please silence all cell phones, pagers and watch alarms. The use of cameras, videotaping or any other recording in the theatre is strictly prohibited. No food or drink is allowed in the theatre.

PROOF is produced through special arrangements with Concord Theatricals

PRODUCTION PERSONNEL

*Harper Student

Director

Laura Pulio Colbert

Costume Design

Jane DeBondt

Stage Manager

Brian Miller

Property Design/Construction

Joe Serio

Assistant Stage Manager (ASM)

***Nicole Dudek**

Music Dramaturg

Sean Colbert

Original Music Composition & Sound Design

Marc Beth

Box Office

Dan Miller

Light Board Operator

***Akash Vyas**

Program Design

Marketing Services

Sound Board Operator

***Emily Willis**

Photography

Steve Donisch

PAC Technical Director/Lighting Design

Chelsea Lynn

Scenic Design/Construction & Projections

Paul Dombrowski

CAST OF CHARACTERS

***Harper Student**

(November 11, 13, 19 Performances)

ROBERT **David Gordon**

CATHERINE ***Sofia Moritz**

HAL ***Sebastian Keanu Rivera**

CLAIRE ***Shea Leonard**

(November 12, 18, 20 Performances)

ROBERT **Sean Colbert**

CATHERINE ***Molly Rosen**

HAL ***David Kessler**

CLAIRE ***Elizabeth Michniak**

Setting

The setting is the back porch of a Chicago house in Hyde Park.

Act One

- | | |
|---------|------------------------------|
| Scene 1 | A September evening in 1999. |
| Scene 2 | The following morning. |
| Scene 3 | Later, that same evening. |
| Scene 4 | The next day. |

(There will be one 10-Minute Intermission)

Act Two

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Scene 1 | A September afternoon, four years prior to the events of Act One. |
| Scene 2 | Morning, an instant after the end of Act One. |
| Scene 3 | The next day. |
| Scene 4 | Winter, about three and a half years earlier. |
| Scene 5 | The present, a week after the events of Scene Three. |

About the Production Team

Marc Beth (Sound Design) is thrilled to be working on this production of PROOF, having previously served as Sound Designer for American Idiot and Fences with the Harper Ensemble Theatre Company. He is the producing director of the musical theatre program at Elgin Community College. He has designed sound for theatrical establishments throughout the western suburbs, notably, Elgin Community College and Metropolis Performing Arts Center. Marc has also appeared on stage at Harper College as Judge Turpin in Sweeney Todd. He is a faculty member at Elgin Community College, where he coordinates the music department, and teaches music production.

Laura Pulio Colbert (Director), professor in the Department of Communication Arts and Director of Theatre is a graduate of the National Theatre Conservatory (MFA) who has directed and produced countless shows over her 30-year career as an educator. She was selected from a pool of over 650 actors for inclusion in the Illinois Shakespeare Festival's 40th Anniversary celebration, 40-Years/40-Actors, has been a member of Actors Equity Association for the past 30+ years, and has performed in theatres across the United States and around the world at the Moscow Art Theatre in Russia and at the National Theatre of Great Britain. Laura is married to fellow Harper alum Sean Colbert and is the proud mother of Harper students Tom (20) and Catherine (18).

Jane DeBondt (Costume Design) is Harper's resident costume designer. A Millikin University graduate, she was an Equity actress for 10 years before becoming a professional costume designer/seamstress in 1994. She has designed and built costumes for professional theatres and schools in and around the Chicago area and across the U.S. Jane's most recent work includes JOSEPH, SPONGEBOB SQUARE PANTS, & SENSE & SENSIBILITY. Jane & her favorite design partner Jesus Perez look forward to costuming JERRY'S GIRLS for Season of Concern in June.

Paul Dombrowski (Scenic Design/Construction) Paul has been the Scenic Designer for over 30 productions at Harper College. Some of his favorites are Urinetown, Little Shop of Horrors, Pippin, Hair, Laramie Project and Moon for the Misbegotten. Paul is also the Technical Director and Scenic Designer at Rolling Meadows High School and Prop Master at Maine West High School. Paul also designs props for The Polar Express train ride in Chicago, Whippany, New Jersey, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and New Orleans, Louisiana. Paul is a visual art teacher in the Palatine schools and has been teaching for over 30 years, he is also on the planning committee for the 2020 Illinois High School Theater Festival. Paul is married to Joe Serio and they are fierce advocates for LGBT rights. Paul is often very tired.

(continued)

Chelsea Lynn (Technical Director/Lighting Design) has spent over fifteen years serving performing arts centers throughout the Chicago area, and is happy to have found a home at Harper College. An experienced production manager, lighting designer and technician, some of her favorite past projects include lighting designs for Language of Angels (Harper College), Spring Awakening and American Idiot (Elgin Community College), Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead and The 39 Steps (Metropolis Performing Arts Center), BOLD MOVES and A Midsummer Night's Dream (Rockford Dance Company). Her upcoming projects include Noises Off! (Metropolis) and Kiss Me Kate (Elgin Community College).

About the Cast



Sean Colbert (Robert) is no stranger to the Harper stage having met his wife on it some 40 years ago. Over these past 40 years he's had the pleasure of sharing the stage with many different actors, directors, teachers, students, and friends. He is grateful to each of them for sharing their lives and talent with him. Sean thanks his fellow actors, crew members and mostly his director for this chance of a lifetime. Love to La, Tom, Cat, Sammy, family, and friends.



David Gordon (Robert) is thrilled to be back onstage at Harper College. You may remember seeing Dave in *Sweeney Todd-The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (Sweeney Todd), *Urinetown, the Musical* (Officer Lockstock), *Bury the Dead* (Third General), and *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Lord Aster). A veteran of most of Chicago's environmental dinner theatres, Dave can currently be seen playing either Lord Marshall or Lord Chancellor at *Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament*. His favorite role by far is that of husband to the beautiful Mollie, and parental unit to their artistically talented grown-up kids Erin, Caty and Zac. Dave sincerely thanks Laura Pulio Colbert for this opportunity, and the cast and crew for the honor and privilege of sharing the stage with him.



David Kessler (Hal) is excited to return to the stage at Harper College in *PROOF* having last performed the role of Tunny in *American Idiot*. David is a current Harper student who somehow manages to split his time betwixt his passions which include work, school, performance, podcasts, and all things musical. He has been an active member of the greater Chicagoland community theatre scene for many years and is pleased to have this opportunity to tackle a project outside of his comfort zone.

continued



Shea Leonard (Claire) is pleased to have been given this opportunity to play the role of Claire as she makes her performance debut at Harper College. Shea is a current student who served this past summer as the sound board operator for *FENCES*. She enjoys improvisation and was active in the Palatine High School Improv Troupe. Cheers to bestie Sofia! Lots of love to Brian and Laura!! xoxo



Elizabeth Michniak (Claire) is looking forward to tackling the role of Claire in *PROOF* at Harper College. She is a current Harper student who worked as the backstage manager in *FENCES* over this past summer. She extends her thanks to Laura Pulio Colbert for giving her this exciting opportunity for growth.



Sofia Moritz (Catherine) is both thrilled and horrified (yes, you read that right) to be making her acting debut on stage at Harper College as Catherine in *PROOF*. She's shocked that she mustered the courage to take this plunge but honored to take it beside her best friend Shea. Thanks and lots of love to Brian and Laura for this amazing opportunity xoxoxo

continued



Sebastian Rivera (Hal) Sebastian is a Harper College student who is pleased to return to the stage having previously appeared Mr. Willoughby in *Sense & Sensibility* and Young George in *It's A Wonderful Life*. Most recently he played the role of Ren McCormack in *Footloose: The Musical* with Fox Valley Theatre Company. Other favorite performances include: Usnavi De La Vega in *In the Heights* and Rapunzel's Prince in *Into the Woods*. Sebastian loves making music, which you can find by going to link bio @cbas_rivera.



Molly Rosen (Catherine) is a Harper College student currently working toward the completion of her A.A. degree. Once in hand, she intends to pursue a career as an actor. She is also a member of the WHCM award winning Harper College Radio staff. She is pleased to be making her debut on the Harper stage, after a lengthy hiatus from performance, and is grateful to have been given this opportunity to tackle such a challenging role.

Special Thanks

Sean Colbert, Joseph F. Pulio, Jr., Jaime Riewerts & Liberal Arts Division, Jane DeBondt, Chelsea Lynn, Tony Churchill, Marc Beth, Kevin Long & Department of Communication Arts, Paul Dombrowski, Joe Serio, Tom French, Thom Lange, Marguerita Whitby, Mike Barzacchini & Marketing Services, Tara Gray, Adam Stevens, Victoria Mineo & Accounting Services, PAC Support Staff, Dan Miller & Box Office Staff, Sue Borchek-Smith, Kurt Hemmer & Cultural Arts Committee, Harper Police Department, and Facilities Staff.

Willis Scholarship

Professor Emerita Mary Jo Willis was a long-time member of the Harper College faculty who taught and directed plays and musicals at the college. Her impact on the lives of countless students and her life-long commitment to supporting the arts continues today with her scholarship which is awarded each year to one deserving student. Mary Jo believes that nothing compares with live theatre in its power to educate, entertain, inspire and remind us that we all share a common and lovely humanity. She is grateful for the opportunity Harper College gave her to share her passion with so many wonderful students over the years. Her legacy continues today as this evening's performance of *PROOF* features our most current Willis Scholarship recipient and Harper student **Sebastian Rivera**.



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HARPER ENSEMBLE THEATRE COMPANY, LIBERAL ARTS DIVISION & CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE PRESENT

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DIRECTED BY KEVIN LONG

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