

Cast

(In Alphabetical Order)

Emma/Ensemble	Ananda Geller
Mrs. Brooke/Ensemble	Katie Gustafson
Mr. Johnson/Ensemble	David Katz
Dad/Ensemble	Griffin Long-Sinnott
Michael/Ensemble	Michael Mansour
Shaina/Ensemble	Keza Mitala
Brianna/Ensemble	Lily Park
Josh/Ensemble	Heschel Steinhauer Roelofs
Jose/Ensemble	Jaya Williams-Miller
Caitlin/Ensemble	Sofia Wolheim-Martinez

Production Team

Director	Jeremy Ohringer
Stage Manager/Costume Designer	Willa Eigo
Set Designer	Stephen McGonagle
Lighting Designer	B.C. Williams
Props Designer	Matthew T. Lazure
Sound Designer	Nick Vargas
Cover & Production Art	Colleen McFarland

Director's Note

Mockingbird tells the story of how Caitlin, a young fifth grade girl with autism, her father, and the community deal with the tragic aftermath of a school shooting. When I first read the play, I was struck by the way that it tackled so many potent and topical themes while beautifully capturing the resilience of the characters. Throughout the play we see each character meet challenges and transform them into strengths.

Despite working on such difficult material, this process has been filled with laughter and fun. I am immensely impressed by this ensemble and their willingness not only to think deeply about the issues of the play, but also treat each other with such kindness and positivity.

Cast Bios

Ananda Geller (Emma) is thrilled to be back on the WFT@BU stage. Most recently, she was Princess Winifred in WFT@BU's *Once Upon a Mattress* (Summer Musical Theatre Intensive). WFT@BU mainstage shows include *Stuart Little* and *Charlotte's Web*. Other credits: WFT@BU's Story Troupers, Reagle Music Theatre's *Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and over 20 productions with Artbarn. Ananda is an 8th grader at the Baker School in Brookline. Love to mom and dad for always supporting me.

Katie Gustafson (Mrs. Brooke/Ensemble) is very excited to return to WFT@BU's Teen Ensemble. She has been previously seen on the WFT@BU's stage in *Charlotte's Web* (twice!), *The Little Mermaid*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Oliver!*, *Aladdin*, and *Stuart Little*, as well as last spring's *Into the Woods* (The Witch). She is a junior at Granite State Arts Academy and would like to thank everyone for the love and support she has received in the pursuit of her dreams.

David Katz (Mr. Johnson/Ensemble) is a senior at Brookline High School where he has been an enthusiastic supporter of their drama program. David plans to attend community college next year and participate in community and college theater.

Michael Mansour (Michael/Ensemble) is excited to be performing with WFT@BU's Youth Ensemble. Michael's favorite performance credits include *Macbeth* (Fleance/Young Macduff), *Elf* (Michael Hobbs), *Willy Wonka* (Augustus Gloop), *Billy Elliot* (Small Boy) and *Flat Stanley* (Michael Lambchop). Michael is in 5th grade, enjoys dance, playing the trumpet and basketball. Michael would like to thank his family, Jeremy, Willa, and the rest of the cast and crew of *Mockingbird*.

Keza Mitala (Shana/Ensemble) is 14 years old and was born and raised in Boston, MA. Some of her favorite pastimes are playing soccer, perfecting her dance moves, singing and acting. This is her first role in a play and she looks forward to many more roles in the future. She currently resides in Malden, MA with her younger sister and parents.

Lily Park (Brianna/Ensemble) is thrilled to be back on the WFT@BU stage where her most recent credits include *Once Upon a Mattress* (Jester) and *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Youth Ensemble). Favorite credits include: *School of Rock*, *Seussical* (Jojo), *Peter Pan* (Great Big Little Panther), and many more. Thanks to Mom, Dad, Hannah, Sebastian, and the entire cast and crew of *Mockingbird* for this amazing show!

Heschel Steinhauer Roelofs (Josh/Ensemble), a comedic and dramatic actor, has portrayed diverse roles including Lysander in Apollinaire PlayLab's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. A veteran of the stages of WFT@BU, Freelance Players, and Boston Latin Academy, Heschel is delighted to show his take on Josh, a mean, but multi-sided character.

Sofia Wollheim-Martinez, (Caitlin), is extremely happy to be part of the WFT@BU Teen Performance Ensemble! This play has been extremely important to Sofia, as she believes it is so important to portray neurodiversity in the arts. She has thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of this experience, including the meetings with Elise Wolfe from Aspire! Sofia would like to thank Willa, Jeremy and WFT@BU for this amazing opportunity.

Griffin Long-Sinnott (Dad) is pleased to return to the WFT@BU, where he's appeared in *Into the Woods* (Cinderella's Prince/The Wolf), and *Akeelah and the Bee* (Javier). Other credits include: *Peter and the Starcatcher* (The Footlight); *Macbeth* (BBC); and *Beau & the*

Beast: A Panto (Fringe Theatre). An aspiring actor, director and playwright, Griffin is a 10th grader at Boston Latin Academy where he leads the Improv Troupe. In addition to theater, Griffin is an accomplished composer, violinist, and singer, having recently appeared at Symphony Hall with Handel & Haydn Society Young Men's Choir. He first performed on stage at the age of 6 in his elementary school talent show doing stand up, and he's been on stage ever since.

Jaya Williams-Miller (Josephina/Ensemble) is excited to be in another fabulous play at WFT@BU. Jaya played Nala in WFT@BU's summer production of *The Lion King Jr.* In addition to her work on stage, Jaya participated in this summer's tech theater class, working on the production of *Once Upon A Mattress*. Jaya is passionate about singing, dancing and acting.

From the Director of Education

When our team read this beautifully moving play we knew we wanted to share it with an audience. At the time, in the news and in our neighborhoods, high school students were using the power of their collective voices to call attention to the heartbreaking human cost from gun violence. Who better, we thought, to share this provoking piece of theatre than our Teen Performance Ensemble.

Both onstage and off, this neuro-diverse cast, has pushed each other's thinking, leaned on each other, and contributed unique strengths and perspectives to tell this story in their own way. Here at WFT@BU we are passionate in our belief that "Live Theatre Transforms Lives." This is theatre's special gift: to allow us, in that space between the curtain's opening until it's close, to step into another's shoes. For ourselves and our audiences, it is our hope that when the house lights turn on once again, we all leave with a greater sense of empathy and with an expanded understanding of our shared humanity.

WFT@BU Staff

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Audience Services Manager
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Matthew T, Lazure
B.C. Williams
Kay Elliott

Special Thanks

Gateway Arts, Maisie Kramer, Nick Walker, Elise Wulff, Sophronia Vowels



The Teen Performance Ensemble Presents



adapted by Julie Jensen

Based upon the book by Katherine Erskine

Winner of the National Book Award

Nov 30 & Dec 1, 2018

Produced by special arrangement with Gurman Agency

"This play was commissioned by The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and was first produced at the Kennedy Center during the 2014-2015 season."