

Boston **PLAYWRIGHTS'**Theatre

A woman with long dark hair is shown in profile, holding a baby. The background is a dark, starry night sky. The entire image has a soft, ethereal glow.

SOFT STAR

BY **TINA ESPER**

DIRECTED BY BRIDGET KATHLEEN O'LEARY

What happens when the only plan you've ever made begins to unravel?

NOVEMBER 16-24 - PART OF BPT'S FALL REP FESTIVAL

BOSTONPLAYWRIGHTS.ORG



SOFT STAR

BY **TINA ESPER**

DIRECTED BY BRIDGET KATHLEEN O'LEARY

Scenic Designer	Maggie Shivers
Lighting Designer	Zachary Connell
Sound Designer	Kai Bolman
Costume Designer	E. Rosser
Properties Designer	Courtney Licata
Production Stage Manager	Pat-rice Rooney*
Intimacy and Violence Choreographer	Jess Scout Malone
Assistant Lighting Designer	Nathan McWilliams
Assistant Sound Designer	Irene Wang
Production Assistant	Fintan Bracken
Wardrobe Assistant	Claire Mitchell
Line Notes	Sara Gorelkin
Master Electrician	Zachary Connell
Electricians	Hope Debelius, Celeste Delgadillo, Andrew Green, Grant Powicki
Carpenters	Elliott Purcell, Carly Stegall
Paint Charge	Maggie Shivers
House Manager	Emma Downs
Front of House Staff	Yide Cai, Rosalind Fore, Gabby Franklin, Gretchen Fuller, Liala Jama

CAST

Jane	Annika Bolton
Belle	Mairéad O'Neill
Dick	Jesse Kodama
Mitch	Kamran Bina
Voice of Tony	Lucas Chonde

***Soft Star* runs approximately 80 minutes with no intermission.**

*Appearing through an Agreement between Boston Playwrights' Theatre and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.

CAST & CREW

KAMRAN BINA (Mitch) is a Boston-based actor in his senior year, working toward a BFA in Acting with a Business Minor at Boston University. Recent credits include Second Hunter in *Fucking A* and Vershinin in *The Three Sisters*, both at Boston University. Kamran has also worked commercially in Boston. He has always been passionate about Shakespeare and spent a summer at the Pam Farr Summer Shakespeare Studio at The Old Globe. This past spring, he studied abroad at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. Over the summer, Kamran co-directed and produced *Troilus and Cressida* in NYC. He would like to thank all his professors and his family for their continued support!

KAI BOHLMAN (Sound Designer) is excited to be working with Boston Playwrights' Theatre As a Boston-based Queer Audio Baddie, Kai is just a human with an affinity for sound and sound adjacent things. Design and Composition credits include: Moonbox Productions' *The Mermaid Hour* and *The Manic Monologues*; *Wolf Play* with the Brandeis Department of Theater Arts; *Angels in America Part 1: Millennium Approaches* and *Part 2: Perestroika* (co-produced with Bedlam and Elliot Norton-nominated), and *The Chinese Lady* (in partnership with Chuang Stage and Elliot Norton-nominated) at Central Square Theater; and Emerson Stage's NewFest: New Play Workshop production of *The Loyals*.

ANNIKA BOLTON (Jane) is thrilled to join Boston Playwrights' Theatre for her first professional production. Currently pursuing her BFA in Acting at Boston University, she is set to graduate in 2025. Annika's previous credits include *El Futuro para Mama y Yo* (short film), *Llorona, or The Weeping Women, Fucking A*, and *El Nogalar*. She is passionate about exploring diverse narratives and is excited to bring the playwrights artistic vision to the stage.

FINTAN BRACKEN (Production Assistant) was born and raised in the Cleveland area, and writes plays concerning loneliness, relationships, and meaning in the modern world. Usually with a tilt that involves humor and that is dialogue-driven. After graduating from Cleveland State University, Fintan is thrilled to attend Boston University's MFA in Playwriting. Fintan is so excited for the privilege of getting to work on *Soft Star*.

ZACHARY CONNELL (Lighting Designer) is a senior at Boston University pursuing a BFA in Lighting Design. His recent credits include *Constellations* (BCA Plaza Theatre), *Hedda Gabler* (Boston University), and programming for *Leopoldstadt* (The Huntington Theatre). He is passionate about lighting design's role in storytelling and collaborating on new works. Zachary is incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work on both productions of Boston Playwrights' Theatre's Fall Rep. zacharyconnell.com

TINA ESPER (Playwright) is a first-generation American playwright whose play, *Neighbor Jane*, was the co-recipient of the 2023 National Partners of the

American Theatre's Julie Jensen Playwriting Award. *Neighbor Jane* was also selected for the 2022 Great Plains Theatre Conference and was developed at The Workshop Theater's Spring Intensive 2021 and the Sewanee Writers Conference 2021. Tina attended the 2023 Sewanee Writers Conference as a Tennessee Williams Scholar and the 2023 New Harmony Project as a Kennedy Center Fellow. She is an MFA candidate in Playwriting at Boston University.

JESSE KODAMA (Dick) is a senior at Boston University's School of Theatre. He is thrilled to return to BPT after having done a workshop of Brandon Zang's *Quantum Eve* in 2023. Other theatre credits include *Prayer for the French Republic* at The Huntington, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Classic Theatre of Maryland, and several acting and directing experiences at Boston University and London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. He would like to thank his family, friends, and mentors for supporting him on this journey!

COURTNEY LICATA (Properties Designer) is a Boston University Alum (CFA '14, '16) and is delighted to have found her way back in a new role as Props Designer, combining the skills she's learned as both a stage carpenter and a film scenic artist. Credits include *Beetlejuice*, *Beetlejuice* (2024), *Salem's Lot* (2024), *Dexter: New Blood* (2021), *The Hound of the Baskervilles* at Central Square Theater, and a hand in the construction of a number of shows at American Repertory Theater.

JESSICA SCOUT MALONE (Intimacy and Violence Choreographer) is a New York-based choreographer and dramaturg. Whether working with playwrights, actors, or creative teams, her focus is always on building confidence and fostering joy. Her work can be seen with companies like Anthem Theatre, Brown/Trinity Rep, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, Company One, and Sparkhaven Theatre. She is a member of the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD), and holds a BFA in Theatre Arts from Boston University.
jessicascoutmalone.com

NATHAN McWILLIAMS (Assistant Lighting Designer and Programmer) is a sophomore Lighting Design major at Boston University. Professional experiences include *Seussical*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *The Music Man* (Lighting Apprentice) at the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, and *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Falsettos*, and *Grand Hotel* (Lighting Intern) with Front Porch Theatricals. Boston University shows include *Siren Song* (Assistant Production Electrician, Programmer), Molly Beall's BFA Lighting Thesis: *Illuminate! An Electric Cabaret Showcase* (Production Electrician), and *Yerma* (Assistant Production Electrician). He is super excited to join Boston Playwrights' Theatre's Fall Rep for both *How to Not Save the World with Mr. Bezos* and *Soft Star*!
nathanmcwilliams.myportfolio.com

BRIDGET KATHLEEN O'LEARY (Director) is a freelance director, dramaturg and theater educator. She is currently the director of New Play Development for Moonbox Productions. From 2008-2018 she served as the Associate

Artistic Director at New Repertory Theatre. Locally, Bridget has directed productions with Moonbox, New Repertory Theatre, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Actors' Shakespeare Project, Gloucester Stage Company, Central Square Theater, Whistler in the Dark, and SpeakEasy Stage Company. Select world premiere directing credits include: *Heartland*, *Ripe Frenzy* (IRNE Award winner for Best New Play), *Blackberry Winter* (Elliot Norton Nomination, Best New Play), *Pattern of Life* (IRNE Award winner for Best New Play), *Jado Jehad*, *Reconsidering Hanna(h)*, and *The Devil's Teacup* (IRNE Nomination, Best New Play, 2007). Bridget served on the Executive Committee for the National New Play Network (NNPN) from 2014-2020 where she oversaw the selection process for both the NNPN Showcase of new works and the Kennedy Center's MFA Playwrights' Workshop. She has worked as a dramaturg with the Kennedy Center and Washington University's Hotch Fest. Before moving to Boston, Bridget worked in Washington, D.C. Bridget received her MFA in directing at Boston University.

MAIRÉAD O'NEILL (Belle) is a New York and Boston-based actor, currently pursuing her BFA in Acting from Boston University. Select theatre: *The Museum of Broken Relationships* (SpeakEasy Stage), *I And You* (Penguin Repertory Theatre), *We <3 Mr Mardsen* (Keen Company), and several concerts at Feinstein's/54 Below in NYC. Mairéad is happy to be back at BPT after previously being a part of two MFA workshops in 2023. Other Boston University shows include *Sunday in the Park With George*, the world premiere of *One Penny Down* by Kirsten Greenidge, and most recently, *Entry: Or, You Think You Know Me*. Her voice is heard on the critically acclaimed *Mars Patel* youth podcast. Proud member of SAG-AFTRA. Love always to mom and dad. maireadoneill.net

PAT-RICE ROONEY* (Production Stage Manager) is thrilled to return to Boston Playwrights' Theatre as Production Stage Manager of *Soft Star* by Tina Esper. Recent Boston Area stage management credits include *All Shook Up* (ASM) at Reagle Music Theatre; *Toni Stone* (SM) and *Prayer for the French Republic* (SM) at Huntington Theatre Company; *The Drowsy Chaperone* (ASM), Lyric Back Stage (PSM), and *The Book of Will* (ASM) at Lyric Stage Company; *The Feast of Fools* (PSM) with Midwinter Revels; *The Rocky Horror Show* (PSM) with Central Square Theater; *The Hombres* (PSM), *Stew* (PSM), *Grand Horizons* (PSM), and *Think of Me Tuesday* (PSM) with Gloucester Stage Company. She'd like to thank her Mum, the Duck, and Biscuit for supporting her. Enjoy the show!

E. ROSSER (Costume Designer) works magic as a freelance costume designer, puppet enthusiast, and general theater wizard in the Boston scene for such varied groups as SpeakEasy Stage, Company One, A.R.T., the Young Company at Greater Boston Stage Company, and Moonbox Productions. She's thrilled to add BPT to the roster! Most recent designs include *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* with Moonbox, *46 Plays for America's First Ladies* at Hub Theatre, and *The Interrobangers* with Company One, and a big spooky Swamp Witch puppet with Liars and Believers. erosser.com

MAGGIE SHIVERS (Scenic Designer) is a Boston University MFA student in Scenic Design class of May 2025. She has designed *Orlando* (Boston University), *Floyd Collins* (Western Stage Theatre, CA), and has assisted/freelanced locally throughout her time at BU on projects with Arlekin Players (Boston, MA), Quisisana Resort (ME), Harbor Stage Company (Wellfleet MA), and more! She is grateful to have been given the opportunity to work on new work by members of her cohort, and has had an amazing time with the incredible people here at BPT. Thank you to both Technical Directors Wesley and Elliott for helping actualize this set and being a vital bouncing board. maggieshivers.com
Maggie_Shiv



*Actors' Equity Association (AEA) was founded in 1913 as the first of the American actor unions. Equity's mission is to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Today, Equity represents more than 49,000 actors, singers, dancers and stage managers working in hundreds of theatres across the United States.

SPECIAL THANKS

Gillian Mackay-Smith

LYRIC
STAGE
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

BOSTON

NOV 15 - DEC 22

LyricStage.com |   
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS CORPORATE SPONSOR
BrooklineBank



That's what it's
all about: doors &
sardines.

BY
MICHAEL FRAYN

DIRECTOR
ILYSE ROBBINS

NOISES OFF



2024/25 SEASON SPONSORS:
Paul Kastner
G. Lee & Diana Humphrey
PRODUCTION SPONSORS:
Nina & Don Berk



*Discover the magic of Broadway's
original roller skating musical!*

BOOTH THEATRE
820 Commonwealth Avenue

BOOK BY
TERRENCE MCNALLY

MUSIC BY
JOHN KANDER

LYRICS BY
FRED EBB

THE RINK

NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 8, 2024

DIRECTOR
GREGG WIGGANS

CHOREOGRAPHER
RACHEL BERTONE

MUSIC DIRECTOR
HARRY CASTLE

ARTISTIC PRODUCER
RIVER HAYES



Boston University College of Fine Arts
School of Theatre



BU.EDU/CFA/THEATRE/SEASON

JACK WELCH PLAYWRIGHTS' FUND

We are grateful to our friends for their support of our mission—to provide a home for new works for the stage.

If you are interested in making a donation to Boston Playwrights' Theatre, please contact Managing Director Darren Evans at (617) 353-5899 or visit our online donation form at www.BostonPlaywrights.org.

Executive Circle (\$1000+)

Boston University Center for
Humanities
Massachusetts Cultural
Council
Ginger Lazarus
Anastasia and Will Lyman
Amy Merrill

Leadership Circle (\$500-\$999)

Anonymous

Playwrights' Circle (\$100-\$499)

Rosanna Y. Alfaro
Alan Bedenko
Nancy Berliner and
Alan Plattus
Tim Bixler
Cindy and Damon Blank
James Brown
Terry Byrne
Peter Floyd
Meghan Frost
Dennis Hart
Kimberly Holliday
Andrea Humez
Melinda Lopez
Joseph Marcel-St. Louis
Cathy Martz
Laura McLaughlin
Cora Nucci
Jaclyn Villano Parsons
Charlotte and Ed Peed
Karen Perlow and Dale Place
Robert Sandberg
Megan Sandberg-Zakian
Roxolana Sawchuk
Sayre Sheldon
William J. Skocpol
Kate Snodgrass
Eric Ting
Michael Towers
Joyce Van Dyke

Friends' Circle (Up to \$99)

Anonymous
Elizabeth Alexander
Deborah Amori
Amy Barker
Edward Benz
Phyllis Bobb
Margaret Ann Brady
Judith Braha
Lisa Burdick
Cheryl Cantafio
Catherine Carr-Kelly
Emerson Cazzani
Ramona and Sean Crawford
Sean A. Doyle
Kitty Drexel
David Ehrens
Eric Engle
Kevin R. Fennessy
Tom Friedland
Maria Giatrelis
David J. Girard
Marilyn Glater
Kippy Goldfarb
Anabel Graetz
MJ Halberstadt
Betsy Helfaer
Nate Herzog
Evelyn Holley
Weizhen Hou
Faith Justice
Jennifer Kiddie
Michael Lombardi
Dev Luthra
Mavis Manaloto
K. Alexa Mavromatis
Matt Mayerchak
Steven Mikulka
Elizabeth and
Nathanael Mullener
Pat and Bob Murphy
Kelechi Njoku
Ronán Noone
Sarah O'Brien
Craig O'Donnell
Bridget K. O'Leary
Candy O'Toole
Mary Paxton-Boeni
Marilyn Plotkins
Lisa Rafferty
George Sauer
Jan Schreiber
Isaac Seinuk
Jay Sekora
Ellen Simons
Kathleen Sisak
Jane Sloan
William J. Smith
Jake Strautmann
Curt Strickland
Roland Tec
Joanne Tingle
Bruce Ward
Rufus Ward
Rachel Watson
Elise Wein
Sandra Weintraub
Alexander Wells
Martha Wells
John Westby
Christopher Williams

Boston **PLAYWRIGHTS'** *Theatre*

Boston Playwrights' Theatre is an award-winning professional theatre dedicated to new works. Founded in 1981 by Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott and located on the campus of Boston University, BPT produces a season of new work, an annual "marathon" of 10-minute plays, and a festival of new plays by teenage writers. At the core of all of our work is our partnership with BU's renowned English Department, in close collaboration with BU's School of Theatre, as we educate and nurture the writers of the MFA Playwriting Program. The Program's alumni have had their work produced in regional and New York houses as well as in London's West End, and have garnered national, regional and local awards.

From class workshops to our Season of New Plays, BPT employs the best of New England's professional actors, directors, and designers to bring each playwright's vision to its first audiences.

Each spring we produce a festival of student-written ten-minute plays, New Noises, the culminating event of the Massachusetts Young Playwrights' Project. In this program, area high schools work with professional playwrights, directors, and actors to see student works on stage for the first time.

Fifty local theatre companies join us annually for the Boston Theater Marathon, a showcase of new ten-minute plays by New England playwrights chosen each year from hundreds of entrants. Each selected play is produced by a different New England theatre company in a single ten-hour event with all proceeds going to charity.

When we are not producing our own plays, we continue BPT's mission by making theatre space available at deeply subsidized rates to other New England theatre companies and playwrights for new-play related events including readings, classes, auditions, rehearsals, conferences, and full productions.

Megan Sandberg-Zakian, Artistic Director
Darren Evans, Managing Director
K. Alexa Mavromatis, Marketing Coordinator
Wesley Scanlon, Technical Director

Nathan Alan Davis, Associate Professor of the Practice of Playwriting
Melinda Lopez, Adjunct Assistant Professor
Ronán Noone, Adjunct Assistant Professor
Hansol Jung, Visiting Lecturer

Derek Walcott, Founder
Kate Snodgrass, Professor Emerita of the Practice of Playwriting

We are proud of our mission.
To get involved, visit BostonPlaywrights.org.