



Open Filming

Gunston Arts Center Theatre 2

May 2—25, 2024

An Avant Bard Production

Homeless Garden was written by Matt Minnicino and co-conceived by Chicago's Refracted Theatre Company and Director Graham Miller.

This production was made possible through the support of Arlington Cultural Affairs, a division of Arlington Economic Development, that delivers public activities and programs

as: [arlington](https://www.arlingtonarts.org)  arts

Cast *(by order of appearance)*

Hermes.....	Louis E. Davis
Val	Rachel Sanderson
Ani	Kate Kenworthy
Leo	Matthew Pauli
Liv	Sara Barker
Firs.....	Henrietta
Dawn	Danielle Rhodes
Sosh.....	Jordan Brown

Production Team

Playwright.....	Matt Minnicino
Conceiver.....	Matt Minnicino
Director, Cinematographer, Screenwriter.....	Kathleen Akerley
First Assistant Director.....	Caroline Johnson
Lead Producer.....	Alyssa Sanders
Co-Producer.....	Kathleen Akerley
Co-Producer.....	Sara Barker
Intimacy Choreographer.....	Bess Kaye
Camera Operator.....	Mirko Almosd
Camera Operator.....	Madeline Krieger
Camera Operator.....	Séamus Miller
Camera Operator.....	Ash O' Keefe
Box Office Manager.....	Anthony De Souza

Special Thanks to . . .

Production Sponsor **Pete Miller**

and to **Cecilia Allen, Jared Davis, Jarrod DiGiorgi, Richard Gibson, Toni Goldberg, Gwen Grastorf, Eva Klain, Vanessa Piccorosi, Erin Thomas, Andrés Luque Turriago, and Tara Smith Whitworth**

A Note About Avant Bard's Future . . .

As reflected in the themes of Homeless Garden, Avant Bard itself is a cherry orchard with an uncertain future. We welcome your financial support and we are also open to your thoughts on the future of nonprofit professional theatre in Arlington and the DMV and what we can do to better serve our community. You can connect with us at info@avantbard.org.

Cast

Sara Barker (Liv) *she/her* is a Producing Partner at Avant Bard Theatre and a company member at Rorschach Theatre. Select credits include: Avant Bard: *Suddenly Last Summer* (Catherine), *Emilie: La Marquise du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight* (Emilie), *King Lear* (Edgar), *Othello* (Desdemona), *Orlando* (Orlando), *Mary Stuart* (Elizabeth), and *The Cherry Orchard* (Varya); Rorschach: *A Maze* (Oksana), *This Storm is What We Call Progress* (Lily), and *The Gallerist* (Vanessa); Factory 449: *4.48 Psychosis* and *Closetland*; Faction of Fools: *The Cherry Orchard* (Madame Ranevsky); Scena Theatre: *A Woman of No Importance* (Mrs. Arbuthnot), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Algernon). NYC credits include The Brick's *King Lear* (King Lear), Hipgnosis Theatre's *The Winter's Tale* (Paulina), and various devised works with director Lear DeBessonet. www.sarabarker.com

Jordan Brown (Sosh) *he/him* is an actor, social media specialist, and personal stylist. Regional credits include: *The Winter's Tale* (Folger Theatre); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Chesapeake Shakespeare Company); *My Children! My Africa!*, *How He Lied to Her Husband* (Washington Stage Guild); *Sometimes the Rain, Sometimes the Sea, She Kills Monsters* (Rorschach Theatre); *Time Is On Our Side* (Perisphere Theatre); *As You Like It* (Powerhouse Theater); *King Henry VI Part I* (Brave Spirits Theatre); *Bobtail Bong Bong* (InterAct Story Theatre); *The Wolf You Feed* (Theatre Prometheus); *Nothing to Lose* (Unexpected Stage); *The Ties That Bind* (Catholic University); *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Eurydice*, *The Shape of Things*, *Red Death* (Stevenson University).

See more at www.Jordanbrownactor.org

Instagram: @Jordan_Le_Great

Lucy Redmon Connell (Tro) *she/they* is thrilled to be diving into the artistic journey of *Homeless Garden*. They have recently been awarded their MFA in Classical Acting from the Academy at the Shakespeare Theatre Company. Previous credits include: *Twelfth Night* (Feste); *Taming of the Shrew* (Biondello and others); *The Wolves* (#25); and *Guys and Dolls* (Sarah Brown). LucyConnell.com

Cast (cont.)

Louis E. Davis (Hermes) *he/him* is elated to be working on this project. Previous credits include *Monumental Travesties* (Chance), *Bars & Measures* (Bilal) and *Charm* (Donnie) at Mosaic Theater Co.; *Dance Nation* (Luke) at Olney Theatre Center; *Topdog/Underdog* (Booth) [2020 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Lead Performer in a Play – Helen] at Avant Bard; *Word Becomes Flesh* (Ensemble) and *Dontrell Who Kissed the Sea* (Robby) at Theater Alliance; *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Host) and *Second Shepherd's Play* (Ensemble) at Folger Theatre; *The Frederick Douglass Project* (Ensemble) at Solas Nua's; *The Freshest Snow Whyte* (Pop Lock) at Imagination Stage. TV: *We Own This City* (HBO).
Instagram: thekid_kinglou

Kate Kenworthy (Ani) *they/them* is a queer actor and writer living in DC. Their most recent work was understudying for *At The Wedding* (Studio Theatre), and *Inside Out and Backwards* (Imagination Stage). Prior to that they performed in *Agreste/Drylands* (Spooky Action Theatre), *Angel Number Nine* (Rorschach Theatre), and in the acting company at the Maryland Renaissance Festival. Their staged readings include *Tofana* (Avant Bard Theatre), *Stay Safe* (Voices Festival Productions), *In McClintock's Corn* (Washington Women in Theatre), and *Even When the World Burns* (Rorschach Theatre).

Matthew Pauli (Leo) *he/him* is an actor, clown, and puppeteer. In the DC area, he has performed with Faction of Fools, Constellation Theatre, Imagination Stage, The Folger Theater, The Shakespeare Theatre, Washington National Opera, and Everyman Theatre in Baltimore, among others. He's also a regular performer of variety shows at the Maryland Renaissance Festival. Matthew is one of the founders of Clown Cabaret, a performance laboratory for developing clown work. He toured for six seasons with Big Apple Circus and is a Red Nose Doc for Healthy Humor Inc, performing clown rounds at Johns Hopkins Hospital and National Children's Medical Center. He is a graduate of Georgetown University, as well as the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Clown College, and has an MFA from the Shakespeare Theatre Academy for Classical Acting at the George Washington University.

Cast (cont.)

Danielle Rhodes (Dawn) *she/her* is excited to make her Avant Bard debut and to be part of such a unique project. Danielle moved to DC in 2019 and graduated from the Theatre Lab Honors Conservatory in 2020. She has worked on a variety of projects around DC and Baltimore including film, commercial, and voice over work. Some of her recent theatre credits have been with Imagination Stage, Breakout Theatre, and Chesapeake Shakespeare Company. She is also a proud member of the first violin second for Second String Orchestra on Capitol Hill.

Rachel Sanderson (Val) *she/they* is an actor from a tiny tourist trap in Colorado. She just graduated with an MFA in Classical Acting from the STC Academy, and has recently worked with STC, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, and Opera Colorado. This is their first Avant Bard production.

Production Team

Matt Minnicino he/him (Playwright) *he/him* is a queer jewish storyteller. residencies/playgroups: Primary Stages, Project Y, FGP, Pipeline, SPACE, Great Plains Theatre Conference, Joust, Everyday Inferno, Letter of Marque, Exquisite Corpse, The Flea's Writers Room. awards: Arts & Letters Prize, David A. Einhorn Memorial Playwriting Prize, Jeffrey Melnick New Playwright Award nominee, Helen Hayes nominee for Avant Bard's *Misanthrope*, O'Neill and NAP Series semifinalist, INKubator and Bay Area Playwrights Festival finalist. he co-founded the COVID-related theatre initiative *Theatre Without Theater* and taught playwriting at Mary Baldwin University. Screenwriter for *Cute Lil Risk*, *Bicephaly*, *Wild Obscura*, *Maid & Prince*. essays published by HowlRound, The Dramatist. MFA: Columbia. www.mattminnicino.com

Kathleen Akerley (Director, Cinematographer, Screenwriter) *she/her* is a director, filmmaker, playwright, actor and teacher, and the Artistic Director of Longacre Lea. She has a Helen Hayes nomination for Outstanding Choreography, a Theater Lobby Mary Goldwater Award for Acting and Directing, was a semi-finalist for the Steinberg Award for her play *Something Past in Front of the Light*, and a several-time recipient of the DCCA Fellowship for playwriting and directing.

Production Team (cont.)

Carolyn Johnson (First Assistant Director) *she/her* is an actress, director, model and writer. She is a co-founding artistic director of digital theatre company Pomegranate Room.

RECENT: *Agreste* (Spooky Action Theatre), *Scorched* (ExPats Theatre), *The Pitchfork Disney* (Red Rat Theatre), *Bell Wringer* (Pinky Swear Productions), *En Las Sombras* (Keegan Theatre, Boiler Room Series), *The Histories Project*, Brave Spirits Theatre, *Motherhood and Other Fractured Fairy Tales* and *Abortion Road Trip* (Theatre Prometheus), *The Cake*, (NextStop Theatre/Prologue Theatre), *Our Black Death* (Taffety Punk), and *Mojada* (1st Stage). She is delighted to be working on her first production with Avant Bard.

Bess Kaye (Intimacy Coordinator) *she/they* is a Fight Director and Intimacy Director and Coordinator based in DC. Her stories of love and violence have been seen at Monumental Theater Company, Flying V, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, Washington Stage Guild, and most recently with Avant Bard's *Coriolanus*. She is the Associate Stage Combat Instructor and Resident Intimacy Educator at the Shakespeare Theater Company's Academy MFA program and teaches stage combat at various regional workshops with the Society of American Fight Directors. You can see her work in *As You Like It* with Devil's Isle Theater Company in May, as well as her blood and gore design in *American Psycho* with Monumental Theater company this summer. thebesskayescenario.com.

Alyssa Sanders (Producer) *she/her* has been an integral part of Avant Bard's shared leadership structure since February of 2021 and is incredibly proud of the seasons produced under this new paradigm. She has been a local DC area actor for over 15 years and was most recently seen as Pam in Avant Bard's highly successful production of *Hurricane Diane*. Some of her other favorite roles include: Goneril to Rick Foucheux's *Lear* in Avant Bard's *King Lear*; the dual roles of Mr. Bennet and Charlotte in NextStop Theatre Company's production of *Pride and Prejudice* (Kate Hamill Adaptation); the dual roles of Trinculo and Sebastia in Avant Bard's *Tempest* and Emilia in Avant Bard's *Othello*. Training: American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Brandeis University, Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory.

Production Team (cont.)

Madeline Krieger (Camera Operator) is a junior at HB Woodlawn in Arlington, VA. She was in her school's production of *The BFG* this past March, and has been taking film classes for 5 years. This summer, Madeline is off to California for a Cinematography program at UCLA.

Séamus Miller* (Camera Operator) is a theatre artist based in DC and Bermuda, where he is the Artistic Director of Devil's Isle Shakespeare Company. He has appeared onstage at Avant Bard as Antony in *Julius Caesar* and the young Truman Capote in *Holiday Memories*. Séamus is the Managing Director of Longacre Lea and an Associate Artistic Director at Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, most recently directing productions of *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other stage credits include Folger Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, 1st Stage, Mosaic Theater, Arts on the Horizon, Imagination Stage, and Spooky Action Theater. He is also the Co-Founder and CEO of Ardan Community Living, which provides safe and supportive housing for women in early recovery from substance use disorder. Séamus holds a BA from Cornell University and an MFA from The Shakespeare Theatre Company's Academy at George Washington University.
www.seamusactor.com/directing.

Tom Prewitt Arts Management Intern

In honor of Tom Prewitt, Avant Bard's beloved artistic director from February 2013 until his passing in November 2020, the Prewitt family set up the [Tom Prewitt Fund for Theatre Arts](#), which provides a stipend for Avant Bard's Tom Prewitt Arts Management Internship. In December 2021, Avant Bard welcomed our first intern, Liz Colandene. Liz is currently pursuing an MFA in Arts Management at George Mason University. Avant Bard looks forward to welcoming a new Tom Prewitt Arts Management intern in Fall 2024. For information on donating to support the fund, [visit here](#).

Free Theatre Tickets to Arlington Students

In the Fall of 2024, Avant Bard made the decision to further open doors to the theatre by providing free tickets to Arlington middle and high school students. Additionally, Avant Bard will provide half-price (\$20) tickets their accompanying parent(s)/guardian(s).

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Avant Bard Theatre is supported in part by Arlington Cultural Affairs, a division of Arlington Economic Development, that delivers public activities and programs as:

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Avant Bard Theatre is supported in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, which receives support from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts



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Pete Miller

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Questions? Email info@avantbard.org or call 703-418-4808.

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