

ESSENTIAL

CREATIVE TEAM

Lyndsey Connolly

Stage Manager

Lyndsey Connolly is a third year Entertainment and Arts Management student. Her concentration is in theatre and her passion lies in stage management. She is honored to have been able to work on a project like ESSENTIAL. Throughout the six month process she was constantly inspired by each story as well as the hard work from her peers. Being on a team with people who had so much passion for these stories may be the highlight of her college career. Lyndsey would like to thank everyone involved in the process as well as everyone who helped her along the way.

Jorge Cousineau

Video Production Designer

Jorge Cousineau is a filmmaker and theater designer. Over the last twenty years his work has been seen and heard internationally, regionally, and all over his home base, Philadelphia. Together with his wife Niki Cousineau and Scott McPheeters he co-directs their company "subcircle". Jorge is a recipient of two Independence Foundation Fellowship grants, a Lucille Lortel Award in New York City, and several Philadelphia Barrymore Awards. He was awarded the F. Otto Haas Award for Emerging Theater Artist and is a recipient of the Pew Fellowship in the Arts. His 2018 documentary film for American Theater Wing was nominated for an Emmy.

Bill Fennelly

Director

Associate Professor of Theatre, Drexel Theatre program. His work has been seen on Broadway, Off-Broadway, at New York City Opera at Lincoln Center, Cirque du Soleil, and regionally at Dallas Theatre Center, Goodspeed Opera House, Hartford Stage, Cincinnati Playhouse, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Portland Center Stage, TheaterWorks Hartford, TheatreWorks Palo Alto, Playwright's Horizons, Roundabout Theatre Company, and People's Light. His directing projects at Drexel include THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE, THE APPLE TREE, DOG SEES GOD, LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, AVENUE Q, THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK, and five seasons of Page to Stage, the new play development lab in collaboration with Drexel Screenwriting and Playwriting. B.M. Hartt School and M.F.A. in Directing from U.C.S.D.

Lizzy Friedman

Assistant Director

Lizzy Friedman (she/her) is honored to be a part of the team to bring these stories to life. She is a third year Entertainment & Arts Management student and member of The CTC. You may have seen her around in SHE KILLS MONSTERS, THE MASK PLAYS, and various Drexel Players' projects. These "troubling times" have brought intense feelings of aloneness and cynicism, but she wishes ESSENTIAL gives audiences the same sense of connection and hope she felt throughout the process. She thanks Bill & David - who have motivated her endlessly even through tiny Zoom boxes - and the entire ESSENTIAL team. Love and peace will prevail - and may we be together inside a theatre soon.

Shammy Dee

Composer/Sound Designer

Shammy Dee moves people through music, primarily as a DJ and artist. As music director, he's worked on WELCOME TO ARROYO'S (The Old Globe), HOW WE GOT ON (Cleveland Playhouse), TIGER STYLE! (La Jolla Playhouse). He was a music director and composer for VIETGONE (A.C.T. San Francisco and East West Players) and POOR YELLA RED-NECKS (South Coast Rep). His music has been featured on TV, short films, and documentaries. He is excited to work with the production team to bring these Essential stories to life. See more of his work on Instagram: [@shammydee](https://www.instagram.com/shammydee) | www.shammydee.com

Melpomene Katakalos

Scenic Designer

Melpomene Katakalos has been a freelance scenic designer for over 20 years, working predominantly in San Francisco, NYC, and Philadelphia. She has designed over 100 productions which have been seen on a variety of stages including La Jolla Playhouse, The Arden, SF Mime Troupe, California Shakespeare Theatre, Cornerstone, InterAct, NYC: Clurman, HERE, and La Mama. International: Beijing Singapore International Fringes. Katakalos is a co-founder of San-Francisco-based Crowded Fire Theater Company. Her work was chosen to represent the US at the 2019 Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space. Among her many nominations and awards are two San Diego Playbill Awards, two Bay Area Critics Circle nominations, and two Barrymore nominations. Katakalos is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Lehigh University. www.melpomenekatakalos.com

Janelle Kauffman

Media Designer

Janelle Kauffman has been involved with Drexel Theatre since she was a film and video student ('08-'12). Post graduation, she has designed numerous shows at Drexel including: BE MORE CHILL (2019), THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK (2018), BLOODY, BLOODY, ANDREW JACKSON (2015), THE APPLE TREE (2013), GRAPES OF WRATH (2013), several iterations of the Mantua Theatre Project, and more. She's also worked with companies outside of Drexel such as Inis Nua, Lantern, and Azuka. Thank you, Dan and Milo for tolerating this bananas schedule I chose to have when working on a show. www.hanejay.com

Michael Kiley

Sound Designer

Michael Kiley is a sound designer, composer, performer and educator working in dance, theatre, and public installation. Past Drexel credits include ALIEN 8, CRIMES OF THE HEART, THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK, BLOOD WEDDING, MUTANT WATER BABIES, and TWELFTH NIGHT. He is a two time winner and four time nominee for the Barrymore Awards for Excellence in Theatre.

Patricia Nichols

Lighting Designer

Off-Broadway: HOW ALFO LEARNED TO LOVE, BROKEN, SPLINTERED SOULS, FIDELITY FUTURESTAGE at New World Stages, BECAUSE I CAN, and SAFETY. National Tours: THE ELF ON THE SHELF, A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL and THE GAZILLION BUBBLE SHOW. Regional Theatre: Berkshire Theatre Group, Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre, Cape Rep Theatre, and Skyline Theatre Company. Tricia continues to work as the Associate Lighting Designer for the Broadway, all domestic and international productions of JERSEY BOYS. She served as the Associate Lighting Designer on Broadway's PIRATE QUEEN, FREEMAN OF COLOR, and the Broadway and all touring productions of Billy Crystal's 700 SUNDAYS. United Scenic Artist member. MFA in Lighting Design UCSD. www.patricianichols.com

Alison Roberts

Costume Designer

Alison Roberts is excited to be part of the Essential team as Costume Designer. After acquiring a BA in Theatre from Rowan University and an MFA in Costume Design from Illinois State University, she has been freelance designing in the Greater Philadelphia Area for the last twenty years. She's worked with the Arden Theatre Company, InterAct Theatre Company, Delaware Theatre Company, Theatre Exile, 1812 Productions, Lantern Theater Company, Theatre Horizon, Villanova University, and Philadelphia Young Playwrights. For more information check out www.alisonrobertsdesign.com

Liv Shoup

Assistant Director

Liv Shoup (she/her) is an actor, writer, director, and Drexel Co-Op Theatre Company alum! She has absolutely loved assistant directing ESSENTIAL as her fifth and final mainstage, and is so grateful to work on such a special project. ESSENTIAL has not only opened her eyes to new forms of theatre and storytelling, but opened her heart to all these wonderful subjects (and performers!). She thanks her team of actors, the "essential women", David, and the rest of the essential staff, with an extra special thanks to Bill for helping her become the artist and person she is today. <https://newplayexchange.org/users/24178/liv-shoup>

Chloe Tolderlund

Assistant Director

Chloe is absolutely delighted to have been a part of the ESSENTIAL project! It has been a vital source of human connection and inspiration for her during this period. Chloe would especially like to thank Lyndsey and Bill, for being beacons of light guiding the way, and the other 2/3 of the AD team, Lizzy and Liv for keeping her sane and encouraged during her first debut as an Assistant Director. www.chloetold.com / IG: [@chloe.told](https://www.instagram.com/chloe.told)

D'Arcy Webb

Voice and Text Coach

For over two decades, D'Arcy has been an award-winning voice and speech teacher helping actors, performers, corporate executives, authors and speakers use their voices to connect with audiences around the world with power, eloquence and heart. She is a former Associate Professor of Voice and Speech at the University of the Arts and current adjunct for Drexel. D'Arcy has worked with hundreds of new and seasoned performers to make their words resonate with clarity, precision and confidence. She has also served as voice, speech and performance coach for TEDxCambridge, and was the Head of Vocal Training for Heroic Public Speaking from 2016 to 2020.

Adrena Williams

Dramaturg

Adrena Williams is a freelance dramaturg based in West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Adrena received a B.A. in English from Temple University, and completed her Master's Degree in Theatre at Villanova University. Past productions include: NATURAL SHOCKS (Simpatico Theatre); UNTITLED (Inis Nua Theatre); and YOUTH (Villanova University). Adrena supports new plays! Find her @ <https://newplayexchange.org/users/4759/adrena-williams>. Love and thanks to Mom, Andrew, Major Kira, and Carmen Dax.

David Lee White

Playwright

David Lee White is a New Jersey based playwright, performer and educator who has worked with Passage Theatre, McCarter Theatre, Dreamcatcher Rep, the Bucks County Playhouse and many other theatres and theatre programs in the NJ/NY/PA area. His work includes the plays FIXED, BLOOD: A COMEDY and SLIPPERY AS SIN. With Kate Brennan, he has created the musicals ALIEN8, CLEAN SLATE and ILLUMINATE. In addition to ESSENTIAL, he recently completed the audio drama WAYS TO BE HAPPY and the webseries TOGETHER APART with Dreamcatcher Rep. He is also hard at work on the verbatim play OK TRENTON with Passage Theatre. www.davidleewhite.net