SIX CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR

By Luigi Pirandello
Adapted and Directed by Alan Berks

APR 19–MAY 8
on the Andy Boss Thrust Stage

Park Square presents this
Wonderlust Production

PARK SQUARE THEATRE
2015-2016 SEASON

theatre for you. (yes you.)
LUIGI PIRANDELLO was born in 1867 in Agrigento, Sicily. He studied in Rome and later at the University of Bonn, where he earned his doctorate in philosophy. In 1894, he agreed to a marriage arranged by his family to a girl he had not known before. They settled in Rome, where she bore him three children and where he began in 1899 to teach Italian literature at a local teachers college for women; he continued to teach here till 1923. The loss of his father’s fortune brought financial worries, and his wife’s physical weakness following the birth of their third child in 1899 contributed to her growing mental derangement until her death in 1918.

A poet in youth and later a successful novelist with such works as The Late Mattia Pascal in 1904, Pirandello began as a dramatist by turning some of his short stories into one-act plays. He undertook drama more seriously during World War I and in the years following. He won his lasting fame with such plays as Right You Are! (If You Think So) (1916), which establishes the difficulty of knowing the truth and the need for kindness in human relations; Six Characters in Search of an Author (1921), a fantasy which comments on the mystery of the human personality; Henry IV (1922), in which a seeming madman is encouraged to believe that he is a Holy Roman Emperor; Each in His Own Way (1924); As You Desire Me (1930), concerning a lady whose identity is in doubt; and Tonight We Improvise (1930). Pirandello received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1934. He died in 1936.

Over and over, he investigated questions of reality, identity, intention, and sanity. He seemed to be saying, in many different ways, that a human personality cannot and must not be violated, that its true nature cannot really be known. His best-known play, Six Characters, turns upon the ineffective efforts of actors to interpret a difficult family tragedy. He found both comic and tragic qualities in such problems.

SIX CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR

By Luigi Pirandello
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Stage Manager ........................................Jacob Miller
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Scenic Designer  .....................................Zeb Hults
Costume Designer .................................Andrea M. Gross
Sound Designer/Composer ...................Katharine Horowitz
Light Designer ........................................Jesse Cogswell
Properties Designer ...............................Sarah Salisbury
Puppet Designer .....................................Christopher Lutter-Gardella
Asst. Director .........................................Christian Bardin
Asst. Stage Manager ...............................Tracy Swenson
Company Manager ..................................Deb Ervin
Co-Producer .........................................Leah Cooper

CAST
(in order of appearance)

Joe ...........................................................Joe Wiener
TECH .......................................................Annika Wahlquist
Sam ..........................................................Sam Landman
Rachel .....................................................Rachel Finch
Michael ....................................................Michael T. Brown
Paul ..........................................................Paul LaNave
Father ......................................................Adam Whisner
Mother ....................................................Sandra Struthers*
Daughter .................................................Kiara Jackson
Son ..........................................................Gabriel Murphy
Ms. Nikeesha ..........................................Dana Lee Thompson

PLACE AND TIME: Here and Now.
PERFORMANCE TIME: The performance will run approximately 2 hours, 15 minutes, including one 15-minute intermission.

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. Park Square Theatre is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.

This adaptation of Six Characters in Search of an Author was first co-produced by Alan Berks & Company and Gremlin Theatre (Peter Hanson, Artistic Director) in February 2013 at Gremlin Theatre, St. Paul. Video and audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.
Why Six Characters in Search of an Author and Wonderlust Productions?

With *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, Luigi Pirandello is often credited as the first writer, all the way back in 1921, to call attention to the play itself – what people in our business call “meta-theater” and do all the time nowadays.

But he was the first playwright to ask, “Who is entitled to tell whose stories? How do we use narrative to give our lives meaning? How are we understood by the narratives others choose for us? And, can anyone’s life really be represented authentically on stage?”

As Wonderlust Productions often makes theater by choosing a community, gathering the stories of real people in that community, then blending those stories together into a new play, these are questions we explore all the time.

Narrative, media, and social interaction have changed a lot since Pirandello’s time, yet the prevalence of social media, online identities, and reality TV all bring the questions he was exploring even more to the center of how we understand ourselves and each other. So it just made sense to our adapter and director, Alan Berks, to remount the show for the 21st century by setting it on the set of a reality TV show, during the live final episode.

The perspectives of real people in our community inform all of Wonderlust’s work. For this project, we worked with college students through a residency at University of St. Thomas, with 9 classes across 6 different departments, to learn how the young people of today, saturated with hyper-narrative, curated identity, and “personal brands,” answer Pirandello’s fundamental questions.

The good news is “kids these days” are remarkably savvy to the unreality of online and TV “reality,” and we learned a ton from them about how people still try to just live their lives, become themselves, and love the best they can amidst all the comedy and tragedy of the human narrative. We hope you enjoy this hilarious and heartbreaking journey as we all strive to be our own authors, together.

What is Wonderlust Productions?

Our mission is to forge new ways of seeing our common experiences by creating new plays that transform the past into a better future. Our method is to listen, wonder, create, and repeat.

Other current projects include:

**The Adoption Play Project** – Built from the true stories of adoptees, adoptive parents, birth parents, and social workers, this brand new play with music will have its world premiere at Mixed Blood Theatre December 8-18, 2016.

**The Capitol Play Project** – This project goes beyond the politics, into the heart of a place that is driven by the people who work there every day. We are organizing story circles this spring and will produce the play at the newly renovated Capitol in 2017.

For more information about sharing your stories, auditioning, or buying tickets, visit [wlproductions.org](http://wlproductions.org)
In Olympus, Indiana, geeky Maggie dreams of going to prom with the hot jock Chad, much to the dismay of her BFF Harry, the kind of kid who wears a zombie t-shirt to the big event. Maggie sends up a plea to the heavens. But be careful what you wish for! Olympus, Indiana, will never be the same.
Kiara Jackson
Daughter
Park Square Debut Representative Theatre
Guthrie Theater: A Christmas Carol, To Kill a Mockingbird; Open Window Theatre: Everyman; MN Fringe Festival: Reinventing the Wolf; University of Minnesota: Eurydice Training B.A., Theatre Arts, University of Minnesota; additional training with Penumbra Theater and Mama Mosaic Conservatory for Women

Michael Terrell Brown
Michael
Park Square: American Family Representative Theatre
Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: Sister Act; Theatre Coup d’Etat: Angels in America, Romeo & Juliet, Hamlet; Pillsbury House: Chicago Ave Project; Artistry: La Cage aux Folles, Hairspray, Inspecting Carol, A Few Good Men; Freshwater Theatre: Table 12, Turn Signals, Before You Speak; Candid Theatre: Proof, Dogwood Training B.F.A., Acting, Millikin University Other CLIMB Theatre: Sales Manager

Rachel Finch
Rachel

Paul Lanave
Paul
Park Square Debut Representative Theatre Walking Shadow Theatre Company: The Aliens; Public Theater of Minnesota: Much Ado About Nothing; Workhaus Collective: The Reagan Years; Stage of Fools: The Last Days of Judas Iscariot; Market Garden Theatre: Three Days of Rain; Sidecar Theatre: This Is Our Youth;
Renegade Theater Company: Red; Pioneer Place Theatre Company: Proof Training B.F.A., Acting, University of Minnesota, Duluth Other more information at paullanave.wix.com/paul-lanave

SAM LANDMAN
Sam

GABRIEL MURPHY
Son
Park Square 4000 Miles Representative Theatre Frank Theatre: The Arsonists; MN Jewish Theatre: The Twenty-Seventh Man; Theatre Pro Rata: A Lie of the Mind, Dido; Jungle Theater: You Can’t Take It With You; Kentucky Repertory Theatre: Moonlight and Magnolias; Workhaus Collective: The Reagan Years; Walking Shadow Theatre Company: Compleat Female Stage Beauty; Workhouse Theatre Company: Eastern Standard Film (shorts) Emily and Out of the Bag Training Webster Conservatory and the British American Drama Academy Awards Ivey Award for Overall Excellence (Walking Shadow Theatre Company: Compleat Female Stage Beauty)

*Members of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. 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 40,000 actors, singers, dancers and stage managers working in hundreds of theatres across the United States. Equity members are dedicated to working in the theatre as a profession, upholding the highest artistic standards. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits including health and pension plans for its members. Through its agreement with Equity, this theatre has committed to the fair treatment of the actors and stage managers employed in this production. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. For information, visit www.actorsequity.org.
SANDRA STRUTHERS*
Mother

Park Square Experiment with an Air Pump
Representative Theatre

DANA LEE THOMPSON
Ms. Nikeesha

Park Square The Matchmaker
(Girl Friday Productions)
Representative Theatre Artistry: Doubt; Nimbus Theatre: Perilous Night, Nacirema – Stories of Color; 20% Theatre: FEMMES – A tragedy, If We Were Birds; Gadfly Theatre: Speech and Debate, QUEER, Vile Affections; Alan Berks & Company: Six Characters in Search of an Author; Freshwater Theatre: The Beacon from Belle Isle; MN Fringe Festival: Don’t Let Them See You Cry...; CLIMB Theatre: Touring Rep of 14 shows Training B.F.A., Theatre Performance, Missouri State University

ADAM WHISNER
Father

Park Square Debut
Representative Theatre
Boise, Gruesome Playground Injuries; Gremlin Theatre: Burn This; Wonderlust Productions: The Veterans Play Project; Commonweal: The Rainmaker; Alan Berks & Company: #ringtone; Hidden Theatre: This Is Our Youth Training B.A., Theatre Arts, University of Iowa; Actors Theatre of Louisville Acting Apprentice Co.
Awards “Creme De La Creme Performances” for Boise and Woodsmen (Lavender 2015 Theater Year in Review)

ANNIKA WAHLQUIST
Tech
Park Square Debut Training
Graduate, Benilde-St. Margaret’s High School; Current Student, Criminal Justice and Psychology, University of St. Thomas Awards/Other Honorable Mention in a Supporting Role, Hennepin Theatre Trust Spotlight Award (2013) Cast Member of an Outstanding Overall Production & Performance, Hennepin Theatre Trust Spotlight Award (2011, 2012, 2013)

JOE WIENER
Joe
Park Square Debut
Representative Theatre
Classical Actors Ensemble: Tempest, Doctor Faustus; Wonderlust Productions: Veterans Play Project; Boom! Theater: Getting to Ellen, Based on a Totally True Story; Walking Shadow: An Ideal Husband; Festival Theater: Talley’s Folly Training BA in Theatre and Drama, University of Wisconsin-Madison

ADDITIONAL CAST
Also appearing on video: Bernard Armanda, Mujahid Asamari, Mashal Aljahdali, Christian Bardin, Laura Daly, Theo Langason, Lydia Sather, Abby Sunberg, and Alicen Zschokke

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Our lovely model, Karen Kramer, is wearing Jono Hennessy Frame #8300 - photo on right, of course : )
ALAN BERKS
Director/Adaptor
Wonderlust Productions Co-Artistic Director Park Square Debut Representative Theatre History Theatre: Complicated Fun (April 28-May 29, 2016); Workhaus Collective: Feast of Wolves, The Great Divide, Music Lovers; Minnesota Jewish Theatre: Goats; Gremlin Theater: Almost Exactly Like Us, How to Cheat (co-produced with Alan Berks & Company); Alan Berks & Company: Ringtone; #ringtone; Burning House Group: 3 Parts Dead Other Editor, MinnesotaPlaylist.com Upcoming Projects Wonderlust Productions: Adoption Play Project (December 8-18, 2016)

JESSE COGSWELL
Lighting Designer
Park Square Debut Representative Theatre Walking Shadow Theatre Company: A Midwinter Night’s Revel, The Coward and Schiller’s Mary Stuart; Jungle Theater: And the World Goes Round; Workhaus Collective: Lake Untersee;

ANDREA M. GROSS
Costume Designer
Park Square Romeo and Juliet, 33 Variations, Good People, Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club, Red, Ragtime Representative Theatre Ordway: A Chorus Line; Jungle Theater: The Night Alive, The Birthday Party; nimbus theatre (company member): From Darkness; Tesla; The Golden Ass; Bohemian Flats; The Year of Magical Thinking; Torch Theater/Gremlin: Death and the Maiden; Mu Performing Arts: The Tiger Among Us; Alan Berks & Company: Six Characters in Search of an Author Training B.A., Theater and German, Santa Clara University; M.F.A., Costume Design, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

KATHARINE HOROWITZ
Sound Designer/Composer
Park Square My Children! My Africa!, Romeo and Juliet, Sexy Laundry, The School for Lies, Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club Representative Theatre Second City Theatricals (Chicago, IL), Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre (Wellfleet, MA), Pillsbury House Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre, Mu Performing Arts, Girl Friday Productions, Walking Shadow Theatre, Torch Theatre, Gremlin Theatre, Alan Berks & Company Other Professional member of the National Theatrical Sound Designers and Composers Association Upcoming Projects Park Square Theatre: Sons of the Prophet (May 2016); Pillsbury House Theatre: Scapegoat (May 2016). more information at www.katsound.com

ZEB HULTS
Scenic Designer
Park Square Debut Representative Theatre Theatre Novi Most (at The Southern Theatre): The Seagull (Technical Director); Mad Munchkin Productions (at The Lab Theatre): Snow Bound!; Chanhassen Dinner Theatres (Set Builder) Other The Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts in Hartford, CT (Technical Director and artist instructor); Global Scenic Services in Bridgeport, CT (Project Manager); Goodspeed Opera House; Gest Scenic Creations and Bernhard-Link Theatrical, NYC (Scenic Carpenter); Off-Broadway shows at multiple venues
CHRISTOPHER LUTTER-GARDELLA
Puppet Designer
Park Square Debut Representative Theatre
Tiger-Lion Arts; MN Jewish Theatre; MN Boy Choir; Circus Juventus; Guthrie Theater; John Ferguson Theater, Southern Theater, Open Eye Figure Theatre, Bedlam Theatre, Home Base Theater, Theatre Novi Most, In the Heart of the Beast Theatre, VSA Arts, Alan Berks & Company, Backbone Campaign (Seattle, WA), the WormFarm Institute, James Sewell Ballet, and the Puffin Foundation (Columbus, OH) Awards 2006 Bush Artist Fellowship, a 2008 Public Art Saint Paul Sustainable Practices Fellowship, 2012 McKnight Theater Artist Fellowship, 2015 Forecast/McKnight Professional Development Grant Other Chris manages and directs Puppet Farm Arts, a nonprofit community-arts organization.

JACOB MILLER
Stage Manager
Park Square Debut Representative Theatre
Barebones Productions’ Halloween Spectacular, Mixed Precipitation’s A Picnic Operetta and Outfront MN annual gala Other Jacob manages an educational theatre program for children with Drama Kids of Hennepin County.

PAUL MOEHRING
Video Designer/Director
Park Square Debut Representative Theatre
Mixed Blood Theatre: Distracted; Gremlin Theatre (Alan Berks & Company): Six Characters in Search of an Author(2013) Other Advertising, branding, TV, music videos, films and feature documentaries; Twin Cities International Film Festival, Sound Unseen Film Festival

SARAH SALISBURY
Properties Designer
Park Square The Diary of Anne Frank, Sherlock Holmes: the Final Adventure, The Sisters Rosensweig, Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol Representative Theatre Illusion Theater: Only One Sophie; Freshwater Theatre Company: Table 12; An Adult Evening of Shel Silverstein; Workhaus Collective: Eye of the Lamb Training B.F.A., Theatre/Stage Management, Webster University Upcoming Projects Illusion Theater: A Night in Olympus

Production Staff & Crew
Sound/Video Operator: Jerry Hsiao
Video Design/Direction Assistant: Rostislav Galiulin

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The (curious case of the) Watson Intelligence By Madeleine George
Amy’s View By David Hare
Up: The Man in the Flying Chair By Bridget Carpenter, Presented by Theatre Pro Rata
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Idiot’s Delight By Robert E. Sherwood Presented by Girl Friday Productions

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Brianna Flasch (Forest Lake Area High School), Alexandra Hatch (St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists), Katelyn Henslin (SPCPA), Thea Meyer-Grimmel (SPCPA), Jonah Schmitz (Buffalo High School), Johnny Stang (Cretin-Derham Hall High School), Katherine Swartzel (Buffalo High School), Nathaniel Davis (SPCPA), Arianna Diaz-Celon (SPCPA), Schyler Fish (Highland Park Senior High), Greta Hallberg (Minnehaha Academy), Madisyn Haukland (Coon Rapids High School), Kristal Jackson (SPCPA), Emma Lewis (South Saint Paul High School), Seth Retzlaff (Minnehaha Academy), Katelyn Storch (Perpich Center for Arts Education), Celia Tise (SPCPA), Claire Umolac-Bunker (Highland Park Senior High), Belle Wanke (Buffalo High School), Ozomatli Zarate (SPCPA)

PARK SQUARE INFORMATION

CONTACT
Park Square Theatre
408 St. Peter Street, Suite 110, Saint Paul, MN 55102
Ticket Office: 651.291.7005
Usher Hotline: 651.767.8489
Education: 651.291.9196
Donor Development: 651.767.8485
Audience Services & Group Sales: 651.767.8487
Audition Hotline: 651.767.8491

TICKET OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday – Friday:
12:00 – 5:00pm & 6:30 – 8:00pm (performance days only)
12:00 – 5:00pm (non-performance days)
Saturday: 2:00 – 8:00pm* (performance days only)
*For Saturday matinees, ticket office and phone lines open at 12:30pm
Sunday: 12:30 – 3:30pm (performance days only)

Proscenium Stage seats 348. Andy Boss Thrust Stage seats 203. The Historic Hamm Building is smoke-free. Latecomers are seated at the discretion of the House Manager. Restrooms and water fountains on main floor and lower level. Cameras/audio/video equipment and laser pointers prohibited.

These activities are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, and a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota.

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CAREER PATHWAYS

State Art Board

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theatre for you. (yes you.)™
Still to come in the 2015-2016 Season:

QUEENS
Created and Produced by the Ensemble of Sandbox Theatre
A fighter’s journey to self worth.
on the Andy Boss Thrust Stage
MAY 19 – JUN 4

SONS of the PROPHET
By Stephen Karam
Directed by Jef Hall-Flavin
“Insight, compassion and biting wit...” (New York Times)
on the Proscenium Stage
MAY 20 – JUN 5

Calendar GIRLS
By Tim Firth
Directed by Mary M. Finnerty
Deliciously witty and heartwarming.
on the Proscenium Stage
JUN 17–JUL 24

651.291.7005 | parksquaretheatre.org