

Union College Theater and Dance Presents

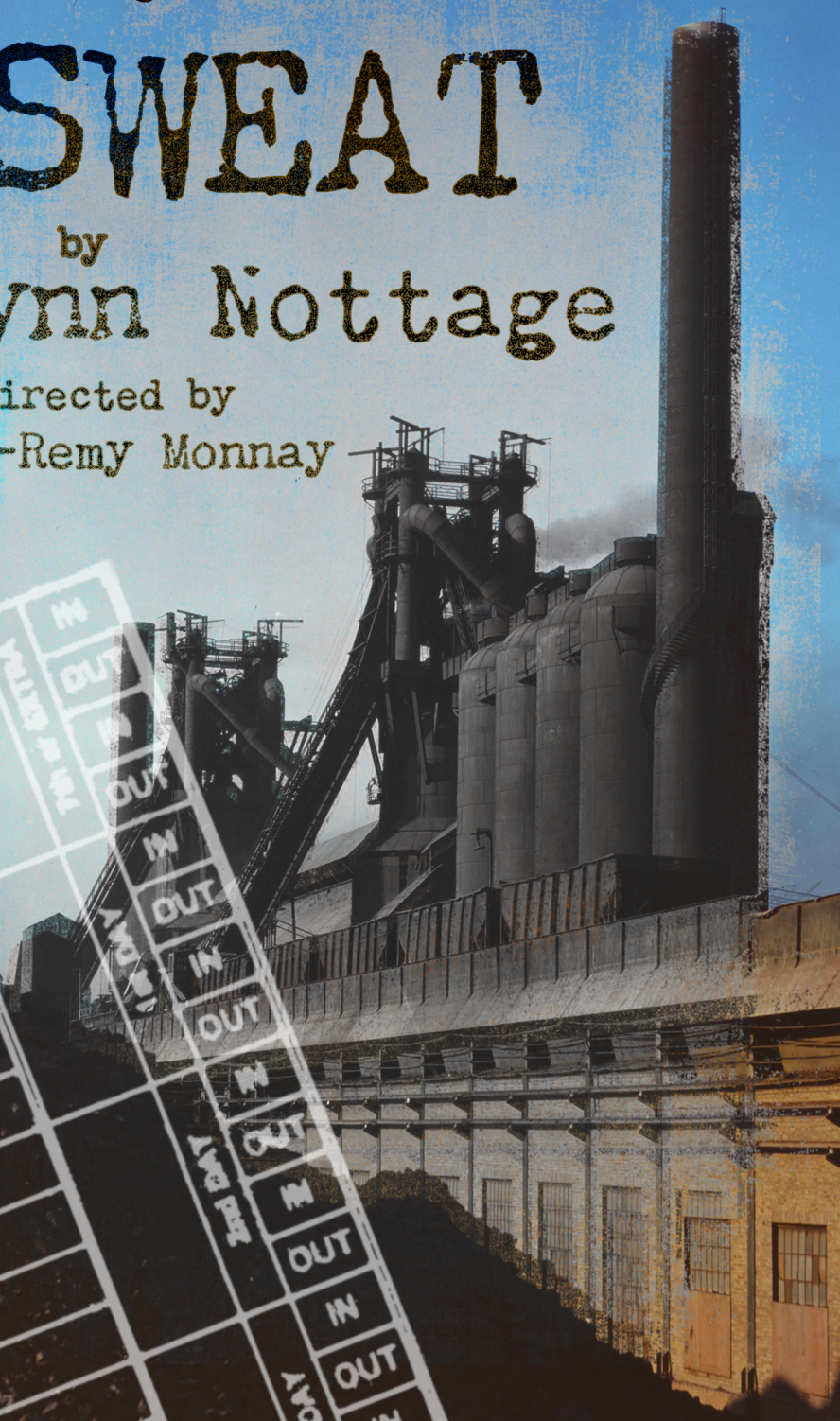
# SWEAT

by

Lynn Nottage

Directed by

Jean-Remy Monnay



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By Lynn Nottage

Directed by Jean-Remy Monnay

Stage Manager -- Angel Flores  
Scenic Design -- Andrew Mannion  
Costume Design -- Brittney Belz  
Lighting Design -- Elizabeth Schweitzer  
Sound Design -- Lili Wang  
Technical Director -- Drew Bodd  
Properties Design -- Maya Gempler  
Fight Choreographer -- Lucy Miller  
Assistant Directors -- Melanie De La Cruz, Spencer Newman  
Production Dramaturg -- Melanie De La Cruz

## CAST

Evan/Brucie ----- Anthony Montás  
Chris ----- Tremaine Richardson  
Stan ----- Henry Devenport  
Jessie ----- Lilian Ruggieri  
Tracey ----- Maggie Kelley  
Cynthia ----- Jolita Brettler  
Oscar ----- Jay Hernandez  
Jason ----- Brian Rusk

## NEWS REPORTERS/UNDERSTUDIES

Vic Lucontoni, Shamil Williams, Jennifer Vil  
Delaney Beck, Spencer Newman

This performance contains strong language, including racial slurs and on-stage depictions of violence.

## **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Assistant Stage Managers -- Delaney Beck, Alanna Byrne, Sarah Wright

Hair Consultant/Wig Designer -- Lavida Barkley

House Manager -- Komila Dustbabayeva

Box Office Team -- Charlie Jones, Paige Curran, Brendan Cullen

Scene Shop Supervisor -- Robin MacDuffie

Acting Coach -- Keelie Sheridan

### **Run Crew**

Light Board Operator -- Ollie Taylor

Sound Board Operator -- Riley Spagnuolo

Wardrobe/Hair/Makeup Crew -- Caitlin Boice, Isobel MacKinnon, Sasha Stark,  
Jennifer Vil

### **Stage Craft**

Shephan Akichy, Brendan Buckley, Christian DiPietrantonio, Evan Farr, Kate Fein,  
Grace Levins, Alexander Naya, Ben Nugen, Justin Paschke, Adrian Ring,  
Christian Rufo, Annabella Schiavi, Owen Toland, Cooper Weidner

### **Scenic Painters**

Eli Coleman, Melanie De La Cruz, Madryn Evans-Moran, David Lennon,  
Emma Riley, Jessica Strzepek, Lili Wang, Lauryn West

### **Costume Shop Work Study**

Dana Aument, Caitlin Boice, MK Darden, Victoria Davison, Sarah DeRosa, Elaine Du,  
Lynn Espiritu, Vic Lucontoni, Isobel Mackinnon, Ashley Suh, Lauryn West

### **Scene Shop Work Study**

Zachary Dickenson, Maya Gempler, Hannah Tokarski, Will Zimmer, Armaan Uppal,  
Andrew Nordell, Eli Valore-Caplan, Riley Spagnuolo

## DIRECTORS NOTE

*SWEAT* is the third Lynn Nottage play I get to direct, and I am very grateful. It has been an honor and great pleasure working with Union College to bring this story to life. This production is so important to me because I get to work with the students and crew who are such a pleasure to work with (I love them), and experience together the issue of race, struggling family, love, forgiveness, relationship, survival, immigrants and the working class in America. As Lynn Nottage says:

"Sweat I really feel is the American story. It tells the story of Reading, Pennsylvania, but it could be any place, it could be any post-industrial city across the landscape."

Thank you to all of you audience members, friends, and family who came out to support this production and all the students, crew members, designers and staff who worked so hard to bring this great piece to life. We need to continue supporting our young artists and encourage them. Arts reflects life, and I work everyday to ensure that the theatrical stage reflects who we are as a community, regardless of race, gender, age and nationality. Thank you again, and I hope you enjoy the show.

## DRAMATURG'S NOTE

Timely, Tense, True.

Written in 2015, *Sweat* earned American playwright Lynn Nottage a Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2017. Produced on Broadway in the same year, it received recognition for its "timely narrative" for coinciding with the American political climate. Set in 2000 and 2008, *Sweat* tells the story of a working-class community in the town of Reading, Pennsylvania, a town facing uncertainties that reflect the steep political and economic state of America: in many ways, mirroring the America of today.

Through the Clinton and Bush eras, a sequence of dire socio-economic changes occurred. Nottage approaches capturing this period of time with references drizzled in each scene. Mentions of NAFTA, declines in stocks, contentious presidential candidates, local and national personalities have a space in this play. One prevalent theme is the controversies that came with unionization and its impacts on blue-collar workers. By visiting Reading in this time, we see how bonds in the story are affected by underlying racism and disillusionment of the "American Dream." Reading and Schenectady in this time relate, both small cities housing big industries going through turmoil.

Nottage suggests entering the space with curiosity instead of judgment—curiosity that leads you to experience that period of time in America with the characters. In celebration of the power of theatre - making space for stories lived and not yet told - enjoy *Sweat*.

Melanie De La Cruz, '26  
Co-Assistant Director, Production Dramaturg  
Political Science & Theatre | Dance

## THEATER & DANCE FACULTY & STAFF

Brittney Belz - Interim Department Chair, Costume, Hair, Wigs, Makeup & Costume Shop Coordinator

Drew Bodd - Technical Director & Lighting Design

Megan Flynn - Gustave L. Davis '59 and Susan S. Davis Director of Dance, Artist-in-Residence

Charlie Jones - Office Assistant

Robin MacDuffie - Scene Shop Technician

Andrew Mannion - Interim Artistic Director, Scene Design, Painting & Video

Victoria Rotondi - Arts Department Coordinator

Keelie Sheridan - Acting & Directing

Dan Venning - Theatre History, Dramatic Literature, Performance Criticism, & Dramaturgy

Laurie Zabele Cawley - Assistant Director of Dance

Patricia Culbert - Professor Emerita Theater and Dance faculty 1997-2019.

William A. Finlay - Professor Emeritus Chair of Theater and Dance from 1994-2019

Miryam Moutillet - Professor Emerita Dance Faculty 1996-1999 & 2001-2022

Charles Steckler - Professor Emeritus The Dwane W. Crichton Professor of Theater, Stage Designer



In Memoriam  
Randy Wyatt  
Associate Professor and Chair  
of Theatre & Dance  
2019-2023

## CAST & CREW BIOS

### **Anthony Montás - Evan / Brucie**

Anthony Montás (she/they) is a first year Psychology major, Theatre and Philosophy minor from Boston, Massachusetts. This is their first performance here at Union College as they have only done middle and high school productions in the past. They are very excited to be performing again.

### **Tremaine Richardson - Chris / Understudy Oscar**

Tremaine (they/he) is a first-year Electrical Engineering major and Mathematics minor from South Carolina. They have performed in Union College's production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. They're deeply appreciative of the constant harassment from friends saying he is a "Theatre Kid" which led him down the path of acting.

### **Henry Devenport - Stan**

Henry Devenport (he/him) is a first-year Neuroscience major from Dallas, TX. His favorite past productions include *Twelfth Night*, *The Hobbit*, and *Around the World in 80 Days*. This winter at Union, he played Mr. Wickham in *Pride and Prejudice* and performed in the drag show in the Nott. In his free time he sings, reads silly sci-fi stories, and plays tabletop games with his friends.

### **Lilian Ruggieri - Jessie**

Lilian Ruggieri (she/her) is a sophomore Theatre major at Union College who is very excited to be cast and trying something new with this play. She has been in a number of productions before, including two at Union as Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and as Everybody in a staged reading of *Everybody*. She is very excited for this show and has an amazing cast to support.

### **Maggie Kelley - Tracey**

Maggie Kelley (she/her) is a junior English & Theatre double major with a Computer Science minor from Wenham, MA. She has performed in many Union College productions including *The Sex Habits of American Women* (Daisy), *Club Dragonfly* (Dragonfly), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hippolyta/Fairy Swing), and the staged reading of *Pride and Prejudice* (Charlotte Lucas). She is also heavily involved in the Mountebanks. She is so honored to be involved in sharing this story with you all, and hopes you enjoy the show!

### **Jolita Brettler - Cynthia**

Jolita Brettler is a sophomore from New York City looking to major in Theater and Visual Arts with a minor in Film Studies. This is Jolita's second feature in a Union theatre production, the first being the staged reading of *Everybody*, but certainly not the last! Prior to Union, Jolita took part in several performative arts and after a break during high school, is ready to return to the stage.

### **Jay Hernandez - Oscar**

Jacob "Jay" Hernandez (he/him) is a sophomore from Santa Ana, California majoring in Computer Science with a minor in Music. He is deeply appreciative of his friends, the Rugby team, and everyone who has lent a hand in the production of *Sweat*, especially Maya Gempler, for supporting him in his theatrical endeavors. He dedicates his first performance at Union College to his father and mother, Raphael and Angela Hernandez.

### **Brian Rusk - Jason**

Brian Rusk (he/him) is a sophomore here at Union College and is very excited to act in his second show at Union. Previous credits include Friendship in Everybody, Chip Tolentino in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and Phil Davis in *White Christmas*. He would like to thank his director, creative team, production team, and fellow actors for putting together this incredible show. Enjoy the show!

### **Vic Lucontoni - Understudy Tracey**

Victoria (she/her) is thrilled to be in her 3rd show at Union! Throughout her year at Union she has portrayed characters such as Oberon (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) and Lady Catherine de Bourgh (*Pride and Prejudice*). Victoria is a first-year and she enjoys singing in the Eliphalets. She would like to send a very special thanks to Remy for directing us as well as Angel for his amazing work as stage manager. She hopes you all enjoy the show.

### **Shamil Williams - Understudy Chris**

Shamil Williams (he/him) is a freshman from Jamaica, NY majoring in Neuroscience as a pre-med student. This is his debut in any Union productions and will be pushing to be in many more. He would like to send thanks for getting the chance to be in a production but also to the friends that convinced him to audition.

### **Delaney Beck - ASM / Understudy Jessie**

Delaney Beck (she/her) is a senior Theatre Major from Bethlehem New York. She is ecstatic to finish her senior year at Union College as an Assistant Stage Manager and as the understudy for Jessie in this year's Spring Production of *SWEAT*. Recent credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Peaseblossom (Union Fall '22), *Act a Lady* as Assistant Director (Union, Spring '22), and as Hair and Makeup Designer/Production Assistant for *The Little Mermaid Jr.* (Debuts Theatre Co. Summer '22). She would like to thank the cast, crew, family, and friends for all their hard work and support!

### **Jennifer Vil - Understudy Cynthia**

Jennifer Vil (she/her) is a first-year, pre-med student majoring in Spanish and Latin American & Caribbean Studies from Dover, Delaware. She has previously performed in the Union College Winter Dance Concert. This is her first ever theater experience and she is very thankful to her friends Jolita and Melanie for encouraging her to give this production a try. She would also like to thank the Union College Department of Theatre and Dance for their support and guidance of this production.



### **Spencer Newman - Assistant Director/Understudy Jason**

Spencer Newman (they/them) is a sophomore theatre major from Santa Monica, California. While at Union, Spencer has performed in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Snout/Wall) and *Pride and Prejudice* (Mr. Bingley). They are a member of the Dutch Pipers, Eliphalets, Union College Choir and Union College Chamber Choir. Additionally Spencer is the Co-President of the student run theatre club, Mountebanks, for which they are currently directing as well. Enjoy the show!

### **Alanna Byrne - ASM**

Alanna Byrne (they/them) is a first year undecided major from New York City with extensive experience in acting, but little experience in the production side of theatre. Prior to coming to Union, they've been in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Schwartz & Rona Lisa Peretti), *The Wizard of Oz* (Dorothy), *School of Rock*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *Seussical* (Jojo). They are super excited and grateful for the opportunity to learn about theatre from the production side of things and would like to thank the SWEAT Cast for being so supportive and kind, and Angel and the rest of the ASM team for taking a chance on them and helping them grow artistically.

### **Sarah Wright - ASM**

Sarah Wright (she/her) is a senior Biomedical Engineering major, Electrical Engineering minor from Frankfort, NY. At Union, she has starred in *Pride and Prejudice* (Mrs. Bennet), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Titania), *Sam Spade Always Gets Her Man* (Sam Spade), and *The Sex Habits of American Women* (ASM/Understudy Daisy). Prior to Union, she has been in *Guys and Dolls*, *Grease*, *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Dead Man's Cellphone*, *Lines*, and *Love/Sick*. This is Sarah's first (full) time as an ASM and is excited to be part of the team! Sarah sends her love and gratitude to her family and friends who have encouraged her theatrical work throughout her life.

### **Melanie De La Cruz - Assistant Director and Production Dramaturg**

Melanie "Mel" De La Cruz (she/her) is a first year student from Tampa, FL. She is studying Political Science, Theatre, and Dance, and is hoping to adding to that list during her time here at Union. This is her first role as an Assistant Director and has already learned so much. She is excited to see where else this rewarding field can take her. She thanks her family, friends, professors and mentors that have all contributed to getting her to where she is today. Paso a paso, dia a dia. Romans 13:10

## **Special Thanks**

Coiled Hair Salon, Schenectady, NY  
Habitat for Humanity Restore  
The Horses Lounge  
Proctors Collaborative  
Union College Print Shop

**Photography, videography, and audio recording  
are not permitted during this production.**



We acknowledge that we live, work, and study at Union College on the traditional homelands that were originally peopled by the Iroquois Confederacy, including the Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, Haudenosaunee (The People of the Longhouse), and other tribes. What we call Schenectady is a Dutch version of a Mohawk word skahnéhtati, meaning 'The Place Beyond the Pines.' As a College, we honor the land itself with gratitude and acknowledge the people who have stewarded the land throughout the ages.

**Coming soon from  
Union Theater & Dance**

**Fall 2023**

**Stephanie C. Davis Dance Residency**

***FLORIDITA: my Love* by Javier Antonio Gonzalez**  
Directed by Jorge Luna

**Winter 2024**

**Winter Dance Concert**

**Winter Reading Series**

**Spring 2024**

**Steinmetz Dance Festival**

**Intimate Afternoon with Dancers**

***Everybody* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins**  
Directed by Keelie Sheridan

Union College Theater & Dance Department

[www.union.edu/theater-dance](http://www.union.edu/theater-dance)

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