

Not A Comedy, Actually Kinda Tragic

written by Caroline Festa

directed by Kalina Ko

Funny: Not A Comedy, Actually Kinda Tragic is an Equity-approved showcase. All Equity members are appearing with permission of Actors' Equity Association.

Headwall Theatre Company

Presents

FUNNY

Not a Comedy, Actually Kinda Tragic

Written by
Caroline Festa

Directed by
Kalina Ko

Stage Manager
Annie Maclin

Technical Director
John Orosz

Creative Consultant
Britt Berke

Produced by
Michelle Orosz, Marianne Goodell
Josh Lombard

Run time approximately 1 hour 45 minutes
with no intermission

Special thanks: Materials for the Arts, Milos Besta, Google Inc, Felicia and Anthony Pucci, Marianne and Tim Goodell, Josh Lombard, The Secret Theatre, Connor Orosz, Collin Batten, Bailey Reynolds, Deja A Ross, Nim Dhillon, Michael Andrews Audio Visual Services, Chie and Greg with Forge NYC, A.R.T. New York

A Note from the Writer

Caroline Festa

When writing *Funny: Not A Comedy, Actually Kinda Tragic*, I drew inspiration from the classic clowns I watched growing up. The evolution of the clown in our culture spans generations, from Buster Keaton and Abbott and Costello to Lucille Ball and Kramer from *Seinfeld*. Some of my fondest childhood memories involve sitting on the couch with my parents and sister, captivated by these heightened worlds. These stories taught me the art of timing and characterization, reminding me that even in our most tragic or mundane moments, there is room for joy and laughter. In my play, the art of clowning serves as a vibrant thread woven throughout the contemporary narrative. This traditional form contrasts with modern language, creating a dynamic interplay between the absurdity of the characters' situations and the dialogue. The piece highlights the artist's journey and the challenges of balancing personal and professional life. I hope my play offers deeper insight into the artist's life while illuminating the world of clowning, revealing how humor and vulnerability can coexist. But ultimately... I hope folks laugh!

A Note from the Director

Kalina Ko

In the introduction of John Wright's book, *Why is that So Funny*, he talks about how humans developed the capacity to laugh as a way to signal to other humans that everything will be alright. Laughing after a fall shows that we don't need an ambulance, that we will recover (even if our ego is hurt). The same goes for emotional injury – the capacity to laugh shows us that we can heal, we can get better, even if we're a bit bruised right now. But the evolution of laughter in humans also points to an evolution of community. Why develop such a signal if there's no one to tell it to? The heart of Caroline's play, for me, is just that – the community we signal our laughter to and the community that sees right through it to the hurt that might be masked. So keep laugh. Laugh with your friends. Laugh with strangers. And laugh with us tonight at Caroline's brilliant piece, *Funny: Not a Comedy, Actually Kinda Tragic*.

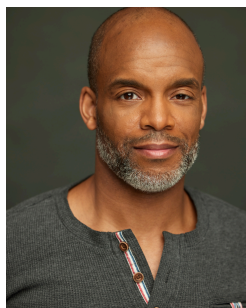
Cast

Paul.....	Kevin Allen
Sal.....	Warren Bub*
Deb.....	Alix Curnow*
Candice.....	Marge Dunn*
Nicky.....	Caroline Festa*
Marci.....	Kim Kaiser*
Gia.....	Ella Leh
Tommy.....	Matheus Ting

*Equity Member appearing with permission of Actors' Equity Association without benefit of an Equity contract in this Off-Off Broadway production



Who's Who in the Cast and Crew



Kevin Allen (Paul/Dad) (he/him) is a New York City-based actor and writer. He'll co-star in the upcoming feature film, *Fakes*, by writer/director John Hayeck. Kevin understudied the role of Dad/Obama in the national tour of *Jabari Dreams of Freedom*, a New York Times Pick. Kevin has starred in over a dozen commercials, including spots for J.P. Morgan Chase, Angi, Abbott Pharmaceuticals, Samsung and Best Buy. As a writer, Kevin is a member of the Writers Guild of America, a Black List quarterfinalist & a Big Apple Film Festival semifinalist. When not writing or performing, Kevin teaches Iyengar Yoga to adults & children. Kevin would like to thank his wife, Brooke, as well his family and friends for their love and support. He'd also like to thank Headwall Theatre Company and the cast, crew, writer and director of "Funny: Not a Comedy, Actually Kinda Tragic" for the opportunity to bring this play to life. IG: @kevin.j.allen



Warren Bub (Sal) (he/him) was born and raised in the city of New York. A BIG THANK YOU to Michelle, Caroline & Kalina for this opportunity to work with this amazing cast. Recent Credits: TV: *LAW & ORDER / POWER-BOOK II: GHOST / FBI / THE MARVELOUS MRS. MAISEL*. FILM: *SUMMERHOUSE / LOST CAT CORONA*. THEATRE: Played opposite to the TONY AWARD WINNING actor Len Cariou in the workshop of HARRY TOWNSEND'S *LAST STAND* and went on to understudy TONY AWARD NOMINEE, Craig Bierko and David Lansbury in the full stage production at NY CITY CENTER / *A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE / LOVERS AND OTHER STRANGERS / MY BIG GAY ITALIAN WEDDING / MY BIG GAY ITALIAN FUNERAL / THE MUTILATED* (Drama League Award Nomination). To learn more about Warren, visit his website www.warrenbub.com His biggest influence is his family. "Without family....who are you?"



Alix Curnow (Deb) (they/them) Off-Broadway: An Ordinary Day (The Barrow Group). TV: American Horror Story (FX), Mean Girl Murderers (ID). Graduate of University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance. Manager: Bright Artists Management. Commercial Agent: Eris Talent Agency. Currently Seeking: Film/TV/ Theatre agent.



Marge Dunn (Candice) (she/her) is a Boston-bred and now Brooklyn-based artist and educator. Some past productions include Hair, Cardboard Piano (New Rep), Cloud 9 (Central Sq Theatre), Dancing at Lughnasa, Three Sisters (Wellesley Repertory Theatre), Murder on the Orient Express (Lyric Stage Company), The Taming of the Shrew, Much Ado About Nothing (Pigeon Cry Productions), and playing Sherlock Holmes in Miss Holmes and in the world premiere production of Miss Holmes Returns (Greater Boston Stage Co). TV/Film: The Blacklist (NBC), Evil Lives Here (Investigation Discovery), and independent films Fidelity, Monogamy of Swans, and Hit Pop Anonymous. A teaching artist for over a decade, Marge teaches theatre, movement/dance, stage combat, creative writing, and instructs yoga to humans of all ages. Otherwise she's in the woods somewhere, petting moss. BA Wellesley College (Theatre, English); classical training at LAMDA.



Caroline Festa (Playwright, Nicky) (she/her) is a NYC based actor, playwright and teaching artist. Most recent credits include Blue Bloods (CBS), Macbeth (Off-Broadway Workshop), tour of Peter Pan (Wendy) and most recently Ships, which had its world premiere at the Soho International Film Festival. Other credits extend to the Cherry Lane Theatre, Syracuse Stage and The Hangar Theatre. Funny is her first full length play in production and she is incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to work with Headwall on this whimsical story. She owes her career to the loving support from her family... and her weird little brain that thinks of these stories.



Kim Kaiser (Marci) (she/they) was born in Brooklyn and trained at Circle in the Square, Emerson College, UCB, and assorted studios and apartments across the city, Kim's work has been featured in spots for HBO, Comedy Central, Discovery ID, Conde Nast, and Elite Daily x Bitch Magazine. She led and supported the casts of award winning festival films and webseries and streamed to podcast audiences far and wide as both real and phony guest experts. Kim has toured as Smee/Mrs. Darling in "Peter Pan," led Boston casts in roles such as Liz in "Book of Liz" and Amy in "Tape," and premiered new works in Brooklyn, Queens, and downtown at PS 122, Dixon Place and NYC Fringe Festival. Kim has hosted recurring clown variety shows, sings, plays piano and guitar, and is emerging as a writer and solo performer, currently developing their show, "Under the Covers." She is grateful to her dog Annie, rockstar bf, her wonderful friends and family, her therapist, mail carriers, teachers, former nannies, and plants. Huge thank you and cheers to Caroline, Headwall, and these castmates – merde!



Ella Leh (Gia) (she/they) is a multidisciplinary performing artist originally from Louisville, Colorado. Recent credits include *The Deepest Breath* (Treehouse Shakers, Alvin Ailey Citigroup Theater), *The 24 Hour Plays Off-Broadway* (Classic Stage Company), and readings of new work at The Cell Theater and 59E59. They are currently developing work exploring gender performance through clown, bouffon, and drag. Training: Syracuse BFA. @ella.leh



Matheus Ting (Tommy) (he/him) is so thrilled to be part of this amazingly talented company of players! He definitely tries to be Funny on a regular basis, often with varying degrees of success. He is also a writer and producer, and has a passion for portraying Asian excellence in his work. When he is not pursuing his artistic endeavors, he enjoys sipping an iced matcha and staring at the wall. Favorite credits: National Tour: *The King and I* (Swing, u/s Phra, Simon, Angel); Off-Broadway: *Comfort Women* (Lee Minsik); Web series: *Big Law* (Peng Yu). You can follow me at @theunrealmatheust on Instagram, or check out my website: <http://mathues-ting.webflow.io>

Kalina Ko (Director) (she/her) is a Cantonese-American theater director, dramaturg, and literary administrator interested in the radical connection and community building of storytelling. She is currently a Co-Coordinator for the Ma-Yi Writer's Lab, Literary Manager at Atlantic Theater Company, and a Curator for Hedgepig's Expand the Canon. Past experience includes directing Lizzie Hagstedt's *Sophie Blanchard's Rock N' Roll Extravaganza* (Moxie Arts), Laura Neill's *Pink Unicorn Frappuccinos* (Chain Theatre), Nina Ki's *Rescues* (Clubbed Thumb Emerging Writers Group), Paige Conway's *Tag* (drafted), and Sophie Poole's *Ethanol* (NOMADS). She has served as associate director for *Yoko's Husband's Killer's Japanese Wife Gloria* (NAMT, dir. Jess McLeod), assistant director for T. Adamson's *The Straights* (The JACK, Brooklyn, dir. Will Detlefsen), and script assistant for Hansol Jung on *Wolf Play* (Soho Rep). Her dramaturgy experience includes Shirley Chen's *Chinatown*, *My Chinatown* (Ma-Yi Theatre Company), Samantha Toy Ozeas' *One Day Down*, and Victoria Kneubuhl's *Ola Na Iwi* (Roundabout Theatre Company). She was also a NAMT Directing observer in 2021 and was part of the 2023-2024 Moxie Arts Incubator Cohort. www.KalinaKo.weebly.com

Annie Maclin (Stage Manager) (she/her) is a Stage Manager and Production Manager, who is thrilled to be joining Headwall Theatre Company for the first time! She studied Dance and Management at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. Recently, Annie was a Production Assistant for Pamela Palmer at Williamstown Theatre Festival and a Spotlight Operator for The White Rose Off-Broadway. Annie is incredibly proud of every member of this production and hopes you enjoy the show!

John Orosz (Technical Director and Lighting Designer) (he/him) John has made a career in working with entertainment technology as a theatrical electrician, technician, stagehand, project manager, production manager, technical director and designer. Headwall Theatre Company Credits Include: ABSOLUTION, THE OTHER PLACE, ECHOES OF IRELAND, OTHER DESERT CITIES, HUNTING AND GATHERING, and #CRAZYLAND, 1 IN 4. As well as Virtual Productions of, ECHOES OF IRELAND AND SEPARATED. John is always there to support Michelle and Headwall Theatre Company.

Britt Berke (Creative Consultant) (she/her) is a NYC-based director whose work interrogates love, power, and the ways in which these entities are intertwined and revolutionized. Recent projects: the World Premiere of Betty Smith's *Becomes a Woman* (Mint Theater Company - Outer Critics Circle Nomination for Outstanding Off-Broadway Play); *watch me* (NYTW Adelphi Residency); *DOGS* (Ground Floor at Berkeley Rep); *Springtime* (Chautauqua Theater Company); Anne Carson's *Antigonick* (Torn Out Theater); *I Don't Trust Adults* (Joe's Pub); *Scenes with Girls* (TheaterLab); and collaborations with Mabou Mines, La MaMa, Cherry Lane, and November Theatre. Britt is an alumna of the Drama League Directors Project, Roundabout Directors Group, MTC Directing Fellowship, and Mercury Store Directing Intensive. BA, Barnard College of Columbia University. brittberke.com

Marianne Goodell (Producer) (she/her) is thrilled to co-produce Funny with Michelle and Josh, and bring this delightful piece to life in a Headwall production. She started working with Michelle in 2019 when she was cast as Julianna in The Other Place by Sharr White. Marianne has been a company member of Headwall ever since, acting in Other Desert Cities and #Crazyland. She was drawn to Michelle's passion, commitment and kindness and found a theatre home at Headwall. She is now Michelle's right hand person, helping to run the company with a focus on grants and the budget. Marianne is looking forward to assistant directing The Pillowman under Josh Lombard in Spring '25. Other recent acting credits: Hope in Open Variations production of Be A Good Little Widow directed by her son George Goodell; Diane in the independent film Gazer that premiered at The Cannes Film Festival in May 2024. <https://www.marianne-goodell.com>

Joshua Lombard (Producer) (he/him) is an Astoria based director, producer, editor and photographer. He has directed #Crazyland by Andrew Marvel at Headwall Theatre Company, Bridal Shower, by Andrew Marvel (Fresh Fruit Festival), Ink (Samuel French Festival), Unleashed by Emmet McConnell (HB Playwrights Theatre), Fire by Rita Marchelya (HB Studios), Asi Wind: Close Up by Asi Wind (Wind Production), Co-director, Concert of the Mind (Conjuring Arts & Wind Productions.) Besides theater, he has worked in Film, TV and commercials. He will be directing Martin McDonagh's The Pillowman this winter at Headwall Theatre Company. When he finds time, he loves exploring and photographing remote areas of the world. <http://www.joshlombard.com>.

Michelle Orosz (Producer & Artistic Director of HTC) (she/her) Training includes: BFA in Musical theatre/minor in dance (East Carolina University), Meisner training program (Matthew Corozine Studios), directing class (Karen Kohlhaas). Directing/Producing credits include: HUNTING AND GATHERING by Brooke Berman, OTHER DESERT CITIES by Jon Robin Baitz, A FEMININE ENDING by Sarah Treem, ABSOLUTION by Brian C. Petti, THE OTHER PLACE by Sharr White. Assistant Dir./Producer: ECHOES OF IRELAND by Brian C. Petti. Producer of SEPARATED by Luke Gray and #CrazyLand by Andrew Marvel. WOMAN/co-writer of 1 IN 4 with B.J. Boothe. Michelle would like to thank her team of FUNNY for their endless hours of dedication and support, and her family for all their love. Dear Caroline: You did it! Congrats to you rockstar.

Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 50,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence.

www.actorsequity.org

About Headwall Theatre Company

Our Mission: On a mountain, the headwall is the most challenging part of a climb. At Headwall Theatre, we support theatre-makers as they try a role for the first time with the guidance of experienced mentors, and ascend towards nimble, versatile artistry. From our base camp in Queens, we nurture a community where neighbors step into the theatre, and artists step eagerly into each other's boots.

Thank you for your support

Headwall Theatre Company is a registered not for profit 501(c)(3) organization. We are committed to giving theatre makers the opportunity and support to do the scary thing and try something for the first time, from an actor staging their first full length play on a NYC stage, to a stage manager pursuing their interest in marketing and running our social media. We are proud to be a part of a vibrant and growing performing arts scene in Queens, and an active member of the Queens Artist Connection. Your generous support makes it possible for us to achieve our mission of paying all our artists and administrators.

Thank you. [CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)

The Pillowman



BY MARTIN MCDONAGH

Playing March 27, 2024 - April 13, 2024

Director: Josh Lombard, Assistant director: Marianne Goodell,
Producer: Michelle Orosz, Headwall Theatre Company