

HEADWALL  
THEATRE COMPANY

# The Pillowman

BY MARTIN MCDONAGH



*The Pillowman* is an Equity-approved showcase. All Equity members are appearing with permission of Actors' Equity Association.



# Who We Are

## 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.

### Our Mission

We envision a thriving and collaborative theatre community in Queens where individuals from diverse backgrounds come together to celebrate shared interests, explore different points of view, and foster a sense of belonging. By creating a world where more people stand in each other's boots and try each other's jobs, we foster empathic understanding and inspire our community to ascend our collective challenges in harmony.

### Support Us

Scan the QR code to donate. Headwall Theatre Company is a registered not for profit 501(c)3 organization. Any donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

Photo from Headwall Theatre Company's Fall 2024  
Production of Funny: Not a Comedy, Actually Kinda Tragic  
Photo credit Josh Lombard



# Headwall Theatre Company

Michelle Orosz | Nim Dhillon

PRESENT

## The Pillowman

BY MARTIN MCDONAGH

Directed by  
**Josh Lombard**

With  
**Brian Patterson\* | Jonathan Dauermann\***  
**Nicholas James Reilly\* | Chris Robertson\***  
**Luli Ortega | Nathan Peña**

Assistant Director  
**Marianne Goodell**

Makeup, FX, Mask Designer  
**Kyle Krueger**

Scenic Design  
**Brian Bernhard**

Technical Director,  
Lighting Designer,  
Board Operator  
**John Orosz**

Makeup and FX Design Assoc.  
**Christina Kim**

Music Supervisor  
**Nate Festinger**

Stage Management  
**Marianne Goodell**  
**Reese Blanchard**

Prop Master  
**Dan Stafford**

Puppet Designer  
**Ian Hoffman**

Fight Coordinators  
**Nicholas James Reilly**  
**Chris Robertson**

Production Carpenter  
**Oscar Gruchalski**

THE PILLOWMAN was first presented by the National Theatre at the Cottesloe,  
London, directed by John Crowley, on November 13, 2003.

The production was subsequently produced on Broadway by the National Theatre,  
Robert Boyett Theatricals LLC and RMJF Inc. in association with Boyett Ostar,  
Robert Fox, Arielle Tepper, Stephanie P. McClelland, Debra Black, Dede Harris /  
Morton Swinsky / Roy Furman / Jon Avnet in association with Joyce Schweickert,  
opening at the Booth Theatre, New York City, on April 10, 2005.

# Cast

Katurian.....Brian Patterson\*  
 Tupolski.....Jonathan Dauermann\*  
 Ariel.....Nicholas James Reilly\*  
 Michal.....Chris Robertson\*  
 Child.....Luli Ortega  
 Child.....Nathan Peña  
 Mother's Voice.....Sarah Brunner



Brian Patterson\*



Jonathan Dauermann\*



Nicholas James Reilly\*



Chris Robertson\*



Luli Ortega



Nathan Peña

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

**Special thanks to:** Dan Stafford, Deja Anderson Ross, John and Susan Pucci, George Goodell, Morgan Wardlaw, Milos Besta, Materials For The Arts, Thespis Theater, Shannon Patterson, Edward T. Morris, Thom Harmon, City Gate Productions, Laura Yost Photography, Michael Andrews Audio Visual Services, Queens Chamber of Commerce, Susan McDonald, Sarah Hudkins

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## Next up from Headwall Theatre Company:

Join us this fall for our next play in development, *Hyper-Bare It* by Lesley Shires. After a cancer diagnosis and double mastectomy, a young mother must recover from surgery before beginning chemotherapy. She is sent to an experimental hyperbaric therapy where she heals with an unlikely band of misfits.

# A Note from the Director

*The Pillowman* is a haunting exploration of storytelling's power to both heal and destroy. When I first encountered this work on Broadway in 2005, I was struck by its masterful ability to dance between darkness and humor, making audiences squirm while drawing them deeper into its web of moral complexity.

What makes *The Pillowman* particularly resonant today is its unflinching examination of authority, truth, and artistic freedom. In an era where debates about censorship and creative expression rage across the nation, where artists and their work are censored, stifled, or erased from history books, and where the line between fact and fiction grows increasingly blurred, the play's themes feel more urgent than ever.

At its heart, this is a story about stories—their ability to shape us, save us, and sometimes destroy us. Through the character of Katurian, we explore how narrative becomes both shield and weapon, a means of processing trauma while sometimes perpetuating it. This duality speaks powerfully to our current moment, where stories—true or false—spread at lightning speed, leaving lasting scars.

The play's genius lies in its refusal to provide easy answers. Instead, it challenges us to sit with discomfort, to question our assumptions about morality and responsibility. In staging this work, we aim to honor this complexity while drawing out the dark humor that makes the journey not just bearable, but compelling.

Through this production, we invite audiences to confront uncomfortable truths about power, creativity, and the stories we tell ourselves to survive. *The Pillowman* reminds us that art, at its most powerful, doesn't just reflect our world—it challenges us to see it more clearly, even when that vision disturbs us.

Josh Lombard

# Who's Who Cast & Crew

**Brian Patterson** (*Katurian*) is thrilled and grateful to everyone at Headwall Theatre Company for the chance to work on one of his favorite plays with this wonderful group of artists. Credits: *Clarkston* by Samuel D. Hunter at Bridge Street Theatre (dir. Daniel Elihu Kramer), *Pride@Prejudice* by Daniel Elihu Kramer at Chester Theatre Company (dir. Daniel Elihu Kramer), *When Gold Turns Black* by Ron Wilks at Theater for the New City (dir. Count Stovall), and *Where Do We Live* by Christopher Shinn at Columbia University (dir. Ron Van Lieu). MFA Columbia University, BFA Marymount Manhattan College. Represented by Bright Artists Management. He'd like to thank his incredible family for their love and support.

**Jonathan Dauermann** (*Tupolski*) most recently performed onstage as the lead in the world-premiere production of *Last Room*, a play inspired by the life of Anthony Bourdain, and in *Romeo and Juliet* with The Curtain (in which he played The Captain and The Apothecary). Recent film credits include *Never Fuggedaboutit* (2023 SXSW Premiere) and *Spider* (debuting later this year). For his lead role in the feature film *Cut and Run*, Jonathan won Best Actor at the 2024 Transparent Film Festival. Forthcoming film projects include *Eugene The Marine* (with Scott Glenn and Jim Gaffigan), *Garbage Bag of Broken Bottles*, and *Come Clean*. For more info, please visit [www.jonathandauermann.com](http://www.jonathandauermann.com)

**Nicholas James Reilly** (*Ariel*) entered this world as a (rather large) baby of Irish & Puerto Rican descent - a true NYC combination. The youngest of 6 siblings across 3 divorces, he diplomatically describes the family dynamic as "not boring." Despite the chaos, Nicholas managed a typical black sheep childhood and everything was going so well, until... One day (whilst screlting out "The Wizard and I") his now best friend of 18 years ruined his life with 12 words: "You should come do the shows at our all girls high school." "What's the worst that can happen?" she said. He was supposed to be a doctor. Plenty more to unpack at [nicholasjamesreilly.com](http://nicholasjamesreilly.com).

**Chris Robertson** (*Micha*) is thrilled to be making his Headwall Theatre Co. debut! A graduate of the New York Conservatory for the Dramatic Arts (NYCDA), Chris is no stranger to the stage, having performed in theaters across the tri-state area. Some of his favorite roles include: Emcee (*Cabaret*), Snoopy (YAGMCB), Jesus (*Godspell*) and MacBeth (*The Tragedie of MacBeth*). When he isn't on stage, you can find him teaching acting classes at ATC Studios in Clifton, NJ. A special thanks to the cast and crew for making this experience truly enjoyable. To my wife and daughter: your support means everything to me, thank you and I love you. Enjoy the show everyone!! Instagram: @thechrisrobertson, SAG-AFTRA~AEA

**Luli Ortega** (*Child*) is a 12 year old girl who has always enjoyed acting and singing. She was part of *Suessical* and *Christmas Carol* this past year with the Secret Theatre Academy. She is very excited to be part of *The Pillowman*!

**Nathan Peña** (*Child*) is 9 and hails from the Bronx. He has always loved singing, dancing, and acting. He is a student in Shotokan Karate as well as Jujitsu. He enjoys playing tennis and participating in school plays and sports.

**Josh Lombard** (Director/Co-Artistic Director) is an Astoria based director, producer, editor and photographer. Select theater credits: *#Crazyland* by Andrew Marvel @ 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), Producer, *1 in 4* @ Headwall Theatre Company. Besides theater, he has also worked on numerous Film, TV and commercials.

# Who's Who Cast & Crew

**Marianne Goodell** (Assistant Director/Stage Manager) is an actor and producer, and is thrilled to be on the other side of the table in the rehearsal room and learn the art of directing from Josh. She is the Managing Director of Headwall and fully supports our mission to get out of our comfort zone and try a new role. She recently performed in *Be a Good Little Widow* at The Chain Theatre, under the direction of her son George, and in the hilarious farce *POTUS* with City Gate Productions in Queens. She appears in the independent film *Gazer* that premiered at Cannes in 2024 and will be released in theaters across the US in February 2025. She is represented by UGA Talent.  
[www.marianne-goodell.com](http://www.marianne-goodell.com)

**John Orosz** (Technical Director/Lighting Designer/Board Operator) has made a career as an Entertainment Technology Professional. In that time, he has become acquainted with all areas of Production for Live and Virtual Events. Headwall Theatre Company Credits Include: *Absolution*, *The Other Place*, *Hunting and Gathering*, *Echoes of Ireland*, *Other Desert Cities*, *Separated*, *#Crazyland*, *1 in 4*, and *Funny*. John is always there to support Michelle and Headwall Theatre Company.

**Hannah Therese "Reese" Blanchard** (Stage Manager) is a theater artist new to the city. After having graduated from the University of Connecticut earning a BA in Theater Studies with a concentration in Directing, they are excited to be collaborating with Headwall Theatre Company for the first time. Past Stage Managing and Directing credits include: *Taurus*, *Horse Girls*, *The Wolves*, *Folly Adieu*, and *Firebringer*.

**Kyle Krueger** (Makeup & FX Designer) is a two time Emmy nominated Artist & Designer with credits including; Broadway: *Ghost*, *Floyd Collins*, *McNeal*, *Camelot*, *The Collaboration*, *Into The Woods* (Broadway & National Tour), *POTUS*, *A Strange Loop*, *Skin of our Teeth*, and *Clydes* (NYC, Chicago, LA). Off Broadway: *La Cage Aux Folles* (Barrington Stage Company) *Orpheus Descending*, *Disney's Hercules*, *Confederates*, *Case for the Existence of God*, and *I Put a Spell on You* benefiting the Ali Forney Center (2020-2025), *Broadway Bares* (2023-2025), *Virgin Voyages* (2022-2025), *Persephone*, *Ignite*, *The Manor*. TV: *The Kelly Clarkson Show*, *The View*, *Saturday Night Live*, MTV *VMA's*, *Tony Awards*, and *MSNBC News*. Film: *The Bride*, *Intimacy Workshop*, *Developmental*. Insta: @kylekruegernyc

**Brian Bernhard** (Scenic Design) is a set designer and theatre artist from Long Island, NY. With backgrounds in performance and mechanical engineering, he focuses heavily on a design's function—both practically, and dramatically. Analyzing the world through Clowning and Queerness, Brian seeks to tackle big questions by discovering the intimate and honest questions at their cores. Credits include: *The House of Blue Leaves* (NYU Grad Acting), *Infernal Descent* (SADC); *Becoming Eve* (Assoc. Set Designer, NYTW), *Eureka Day* (Props, Colt Coeur) Education: MFA Design for Stage, NYU; BA Theatre Arts & BE Mechanical Engineering, SUNY Stony Brook

**Nate Festinger** (Music Supervisor) is a composer, music director, orchestrator, and arranger with a voice shaped by pop, jazz, musical theater, and classical music. Raised in Los Angeles by jazz musician parents, he began composing early and moved to New York at 18, earning acceptance into the BMI Musical Theater Workshop. As a music director, Nate has led numerous Off-Broadway shows, including *The Threepenny Opera* and *Love Trapezoid*. His orchestrations have been featured in productions like *OBGYNIA* and *Perez Hilton Saves the Universe*. A composer of theater and classical music, Nate's works blend diverse influences into a distinct language, bridging the two worlds with originality and depth.

# Who's Who Cast & Crew

**Ian Hoffman** (he/him; Puppet Designer) is proud to be making his debut with Headwall Theatre Company! He's been doing puppetry design and performance for over ten years now with credits including work on *Failure: A Love Story* (Connecticut Rep.); *Boyish Charms* (Brother Earth Collaborative); *Little Shop of Horrors* (Connecticut Rep.); *Folly Adieu* (Break-Fast Puppets); *The Snowflake Revue* (The Creatures of Yes); *Episode 002* (Cold Sober); *Puppet Collab-aret* (WeWiggleDolls, BoyScoutMarie); and many more! He'd like to thank his family and friends for their continued love and support, his partner Reese for putting up with a messy apartment floor full of puppet pieces, and you for taking the time to read through this. Enjoy the show! @captain\_turkeos

**Michelle Orosz** (Producer/Artistic Director) holds a BFA in musical theatre/minor in dance (East Carolina University). Directing/Producing credits include: *Hunting and Gathering* by Brooke Berman, *Other Desert Cities* by Jon Robin Baitz, *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"/Writer of *1 in 4* by Michelle Orosz and B.J. Boothe. Producer of *Funny* by Caroline Festa. Michelle would like to thank *The Pillowman* team for their endless hours of dedication, and her family for all their love.

**Nim Dhillon** (Producer/House Manager) is a born again theatre nerd, having rekindled the spark after moving to New York City in 2018. Nim has been with Headwall Theatre Company since 2019, filling many roles and wearing multiple hats in the years since. Credits include: *#CrazyLand* by Andrew Marvel (Producer); *HTC's New Voices Worksop Series 2022 & 2023* (Producer); *Separated, an Online Play*, by Luke Gray (Stage Manager, Producer); *Hunting and Gathering* by Brooke Berman (Stage Manager). Nim also sits on the Board of Directors for Headwall. Outside of theatre, when not in the audience or running around behind the scenes, you can find her at the gym.

**Steven Kopp** (Social Media Strategist) is a freelance Brand and Social Media Consultant by day. He's worked with companies both corporate and local including Your Career Strategy, FORGE NYC, We Are New Studios, Artist's Strategy, Sexy Batch Baking Company, Gamestoria, and now Headwall Theatre. By nights and weekends, Steven is a content creator, variety streamer, and competitive e-sports caster / commentator. He also travels the country doing convention work with companies like Wizards of the Coast, Pokemon, HelloFresh, Cool Stuff Inc, Quiver Time, Laughing Dragon, DreamHack and more engaging the gaming community with interviews and an immersive, inclusive experiences. In his last save file he was a theatrical producer on and off Broadway. His producing credits include: Formerly the Assistant to David Binder (Broadway Producer of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* & *Of Mice and Men*), *Billy and the Golden Pencil* (NY Theatre Barn, Town Stages, Barn Arts Collective), *The Tempest* (Taksu Theatre Company). Directing credits: *Spike Heels* by Theresa Rebeck (Loft 227), *Late For Brunch* (The Pit Loft). Assistant Directing credits: *I Remember Mama* by John Van Druten (Transport Group, Drama Desk Nominee), *The Maids* by Jean Genet (Sonnet Repertory Theatre).

**Déjà Anderson-Ross** (Social Media Coordinator) was born and raised in the south suburbs of Chicago, IL. She has a BA in Theater from Columbia College Chicago and has received her MFA in acting from The Actors Studio Drama School. Her NYC theater acting debut was with Headwall Theater Company's production of *#CrazyLand* as Simone. Her on camera credits include *Chicago Fire*, *Equalizer*, and *FBI: Most Wanted*. She hopes to use her artistic abilities not only in storytelling onstage and on camera but in marketing and advertising. She believes that no matter the format, storytelling is a thread that ties us all together. She's excited to be working on Headwall's marketing team!



# Who's Who Cast & Crew

**Dan Stafford** (Prop Master) is a New York based visual display artist and potter. Being familiar with most art mediums, Dan has made a career out of it as a Visual Manager in the city. Over the past 16 years Dan has created countless props and installations for Saks Fifth Avenue, Nordstrom, REI, and Bloomingdale's. Dan went to school for Fine Art and Photography, but his true love is clay where he spends most of his free time on a wheel.

**Christina Kim** (Makeup and FX Design Associate) is a freelance makeup and hair artist. She is a versatile makeup and hair artist in Film/TV, Fashion, Broadway, SFX, E-comm, Runway, Editorial, and Grooming. Some of her credits include: RUNWAY: Thom Browne, Puma. ECOM: Macy's, One A Day Vitamin, Harridon Vodka. Off Broadway: *Broadway Bares*, *I Put a Spell on You* benefiting the Ali Forney Center.

Loved the show?  
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