Raucous, surprising, and fearless – experimental playwright Young Jean Lee takes an outside look at the traditional father/son play narrative, shedding new and often hilarious light on a story we think we know all too well. When personal identity is essential and privilege is a problem, what is a straight white man to do?

THE CAST
DREW……………………………….……..….....Adam Turck
JAKE…………………………….………...…….Axle Burtness
MATT…………………………….…….……..Patrick Rooney
ED..................................................Christopher Dunn
PERSON IN CHARGE #1……………….Lucretia Marie
PERSON IN CHARGE #2…………..……...Malakai Lee

THE TEAM
Direction: Kelsey Cordrey
Scenic Design: Deejay Gray
Lighting Design: Michael Jarett
Sound Design: Kelsey Cordrey
Costume Design: Nia Safarr Banks
Props Design: Margaret Dodson
Set Construction: Chris Foote
Assistant Set Construction: Liz Murphy
Scenic Painter: Diane Zimmerman
Associate Direction: Juliana Caycedo
Dramaturgy: Shinji Oh
Assistant Stage Management: Demarco Lumpkin & Angela Mae Vivaldi
Production Stage Management: Crimson Piazza

PROOF OF VACCINATION or A NEGATIVE COVID TEST REQUIRED
The Basement is a fully vaccinated venue. Proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test (within 48 hours of the performance) are required upon entry. For the safety of our artists and audiences, masks must be worn while at the theatre. Thank you for keeping our community safe.
THE CAST

ADAM TURCK (Drew; he/him) is brimming to be back at The Basement, humbled to be part of The Conciliation Lab’s inaugural season, and weeping for joy being back in a theater with y’all! Previous credits at The Basement are Jason/Tyrone in Hand to God (TheatreLAB and 5th Wall Theatre), and The Hero in Level 4. Other credits include Joshua in Corpus Christie, Andy Paris et. al in The Laramie Project, and Rocky in The Rocky Horror Show at Richmond Triangle Players, Chandler Hubbard’s Animal Control at Firehouse Theatre, Guildenstern in Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead, and Ariel in The Tempest with Quill Theatre.

AXLE BURTNESS (Jake; he/him) is happy to join The Conciliation Lab for their first season with this production of Straight White Men! A resident of the Richmond stage for close to a decade, he is proud to be back in front of an audience after the pandemic. Recent Stage credits include: George Gibbs in Our Town (Whistle Stop Theatre), Krogstad in A Doll’s House (TheatreLAB), Jim Taylor in Lombardi and Them in Songs from Bedlam (Firehouse Theatre). Recent Film credits include: Extra work in Dopesick (Hulu) and Beyond Walking Dead (AMC), Ross Rosson in People Don’t Die... Anymore (Remember Tommy Productions), and Nic Notaro in Evil Kin (ID Channel). Axle would like to thank his friends and family for their endless support, and Irene for making him the luckiest man alive.

PATRICK ROONEY (Matt; he/him) is humbled to be making his RVA stage debut with The Conciliation Lab. Previous credits include The Peddler’s Opera, Ladies of Llangollen (The Playhouse Stage); Almost, Maine (The Lake Theatre); Hamlet (TheRep); The Lyons, Our Son’s Wedding, Dracula, Next Fall, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest (Curtain Call Theatre); Twelfth Night (Parker Theatre), Much Ado About Nothing (Classic Theater Guild); Hamlet, Macbeth (Maureen Stapleton Theatre). Patrick also regularly performs with the traditional Celtic music group, Poisoned Dwarf. Deep gratitude to Deejay, Kelsey, and the rest of the team for the opportunity to work on this show.

CHRISTOPHER DUNN (Ed; he/him) Recent credits include The Tempest, Brave New World & Love’s Labour’s Lost (Quill Theatre); Choir Boy (Richmond Triangle Players/Heritage Ensemble Theatre); Invalid and Ubu 84 (Firehouse Theatre); 9 Circles (The Conciliation Lab), Equus (Cadence Theatre Company), Death and the Maiden and The Last Days of Judas Iscariot (Henley Street Theatre). He performs regularly at St. John’s Church in Liberty or Death. Much gratitude to Linda for her love and support. Education: TheatreVCU ’77

LUCRETIA MARIE (Person In Charge #1; they/them) is thrilled to be a part of The Conciliation Lab’s inaugural season! As an educator/activist/anti-racism coach and facilitator, they are almost always The Person in Charge. Recent acting credits include: Antonio in Twelfth Night, Vincentio/Tailor in The Taming of the Shrew, Mustapha Mond in Brave New World, Oberon/Hippolyta in The Bottom Show (Quill Theatre), Marsha in Stonewallin’ as part of the So’Queer Festival, Ramona in Molly House (Richmond Triangle Players), Patty Smith in Animal Control (Firehouse Theatre), and Ensemble in Hamilton Live at Dogwood Dell. Lucretia is also featured in Remember Tommy Productions’ film SHANIDAR as Jackie, debuting in 2022.

MALAKAI LEE (Person In Charge #2; he/him) is a hardworking student in the CFA program at Henrico High School (the Center for the Arts). He enjoys musical theatre and
participating in several clubs and organizations in and out of school, including Spectrum, Richmond's only queer youth theatre program (The Conciliation Lab, Richmond Triangle Players, and SPARC), as well The Conciliation Lab’s Youth Leadership Board, a theatre group dedicated to creating youth programs and activism around Richmond. He also enjoys his job at The Hive, a youth-led organization pushing to end youth incarceration. Malakai also enjoys spending time with his wonderful family. School productions include Hairspray, High School Musical, The Little Mermaid, and Shrek. Most recently, he played Chip Tolentino in The...Spelling Bee at SPARC. Straight White Men is Malakai’s professional debut.

THE TEAM

KELSEY CORDREY (Direction; she/her) is an actress, designer, and director based in Richmond, VA. Kelsey is making her directorial debut with Straight White Men. Previous Associate Directing credits include: Dance Nation, Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street, Mother Courage and Her Children, Cock, Oblivion (TheatreLAB); Hillary and Clinton and The Quality of Life (HATTheatre). Special thanks to Deejay Gray and Dr. Tawnya Pettiford-Wates for this opportunity, and to Margaret Dodson, who is such a supportive partner that she joined the design team.

DEEJAY GRAY (Scenic Design; he/she/they) is an actor, director, and teaching artist born and raised in Richmond. Deejay is the Founding Artistic Director of TheatreLAB and now the Founding Co-Artistic Director of The Conciliation Lab, Richmond’s Social Justice Theatre Company. Through this work, Deejay was named one of STYLE Weekly's Top 40 Under 40 and has been featured in their annual Best of Richmond and Richmond POWER Lists, and was honored with Richmond Magazine’s Theresa Pollak Prize for Excellence in the Arts for Theatre. Deejay won Best Director of a Musical at the 2019 Richmond Theatre Critics Circle Awards for TheatreLAB’s production of Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street. Deejay is the program director for SPECTRUM, Richmond’s only queer youth theatre program.

MICHAEL JARETT (Lighting Design; he/him) is thrilled to design his first show for The Conciliation Lab. Previously for TheatreLAB he has designed The Revolutionists, Urinetown (RTCC Award), Admissions, Level 4 (RTCC Nomination), Dance Nation (RTCC Nomination), Sweeney Todd (RTCC Award), Significant Other, Hand to God, Topdog/Underdog, Moth (RTCC Award), I'm Gonna Pray For You So Hard, The Last Five Years (RTCC Nomination), Heathers the Musical (RTCC Nomination), Venus in Fur, Bad Jews, Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill, The Altruists, C*ck, when last we flew, Oblivion, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, Closer, and Grace. He has received additional RTCC nominations for his designs for The Laramie Project, The Boy from Oz, Angels in America, and The Musical of Musicals at Richmond Triangle Players. Recent Richmond designs include 4000 Days at Richmond Triangle Players. He received his MFA from Brandeis University and held the Hemsley Lighting Internship at Lincoln Center. Michael currently works as an Assistant Professor/Design Specialist for the Department of Dance at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, where he recently received the Charles Vanda Award for Excellence in the Arts. www.michaeljarett.com

KELSEY CORDREY (Sound Design; she/her) is an actor, director, and designer based in Richmond. Sound design credits: Pipeline (Virginia Repertory Theatre); The Revolutionists (Richmond Theatre Critics Circle Nominee – Outstanding Sound Design), Admissions, An
Octoroon, Pretty Fire, Golda’s Balcony, Bad Dates, Topdog/Underdog, Constellations, I’m Gonna Pray For You So Hard, Grounded, Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992, My Name is Rachel Corrie, Mother Courage and Her Children (RTCC Nominee – Outstanding Sound Design), Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar and Grill, Cock, and Oblivion (TheatreLAB); American Buffalo (Quill Theatre, RTCC Nominee – Outstanding Sound Design). Training: NYU Tisch New Studio on Broadway, Appomattox Regional Governor’s School.

NIA SAFARR BANKS (Costume Design; she/her) is a Costume Designer from Richmond, Virginia. She graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and is currently studying to receive her Master of Fine Arts at Boston University. She was nominated in 2019 for the Richmond Theatre Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Achievement in Costume Design in a Play for TheatreLAB’s production of An Octoroon. Her credits include: Invalid (Firehouse Theatre), Fences, Pipeline (Virginia Repertory Theatre), 4000 Days, and the World Premiere of A Christmas Kaddish (Richmond Triangle Players). Up next, Nia will be designing August Wilson’s Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom for The Conciliation Lab.

MARGARET DODSON (Properties Design; she/her) is a fiber and multimedia artist based in Richmond, VA, making her theatrical debut. Margaret specializes in found object art, and she delights in giving forgotten items new purpose and life through the magic of live theatre. Special thanks to The Conciliation Lab and Kelsey Cordrey for inviting her to be a part of this project.

CHRIS FOOTE (Set Construction; he/they) is the Lead Carpenter for Virginia Repertory Theatre, in addition to working freelance for the theatres around Richmond. His work has been featured on stages across the country and national television, and he is also a frequent collaborator with the experimental group DOG STUFF based out of NYC. Selected Technical Director credits include: Day of Absence, Klytmnestra, Blood at the Root, The Events, The Trans-Atlantic Time Traveling Company, Flood City (Theatre Alliance); One in Four, Wrong Chopped, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (DOG STUFF); The Niceties, Bad Jews (The Conciliation Lab / TheatreLAB); and Stupid F*%#ing Bird (Quill Theatre).

DEMARCO LUMPKIN (Assistant Stage Management; he/him) is very excited that Straight White Men is his first time being on the Production Team of a project for The Conciliation Lab and is so happy to be a part of the TCL family! Some of his Stage Management credits include: Newsies, Matilda (SCPS Summer Theatre Project), Heart of a Dog (Shafer Alliance Laboratory Theatre), Evelyn & His Brothers (Tantrum East) [Production Stage Management], Spring Awakening (TheatreVCU), What Wasn’t (Project Ele), As You Like It (Shafer Alliance Laboratory Theatre), Children of Eden (Stage Door Productions) [Assistant Stage Management], and In the Red and Brown Water (TheatreVCU) [Production Assistant]. After Straight White Men, Demarco’s next adventure will be as the Production Stage Manager for TheatreVCU’s production of James and the Giant Peach.

ANGELA MAE VIVALDI (Assistant Stage Management; she/they) is a fourth-year theatre student pursuing their BFA (Fall 2022) in theatre with a concentration in Stage Management and a minor in Sound Design. Previous production credits include: Men on Boats (Associate Sound Designer and Foley Artist), Spring Awakening (Assistant Sound Designer and Production Assistant), The Diary of Anne Frank (Production Stage Manager), God of Carnage
(Production Stage Manager), **Matilda** (Assistant Stage Manager), **The Brightest of Stars** (Production Stage Manager), **Sense and Sensibility** (Production Assistant), and **Little Shop of Horrors** (Second Audio Technician). Thanks to her family and friends for all of their love and support.

**SHINJI OH** (**Dramaturgy; she/they**) is a senior at TheatreVCU about to get her BFA in Theatre Performance, and this is her first project as a dramaturg. As a Korean American artist, she found it both challenging and refreshing to research and work on a show about straight white men by an Asian woman when the academic and professional worlds often wish to focus on Asian women written by straight white men. She thanks the audience for coming and hopes they're inspired to spend more of their time out of their comfort zone.

**JULIANA CAYCEDO** (**Associate Direction; she/her**) is a performer, theatre artist, writer, lyricist, and student. She has most recently performed in Richmond in *An Octoroon* as Zoe at The Basement, and in *Between Riverside and Crazy* as Lulu at Cadence Theatre, both having been directed by Dr. Tawnya Pettiford-Wates. Juliana will be appearing in the upcoming production of * Everybody* directed by Rusty Wilson at Cadence Theatre. This is her first time having worked as an Associate Director and she has loved every moment of it.

**CRIMSON PIAZZA** (**Production Stage Management; he/him**) is the Resident Stage Manager of The Conciliation Lab, and is very excited to kick off their season with *The Niceties*! Crimson is a recent graduate from VCUarts:Theatre where he got his BFA in Stage Management. Crimson’s other PSM credits include *Matilda the Musical* (Dogwood Dell), *She Loves Me* (SPARC), *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Dogtown Dance Theatre) and Co-PSM for VCU’s *Spring Awakening*. He also worked as an ASM on VCU’s productions of *Eclipsed, Something Wonderful*, during the original rehearsals of *Spring Awakening*, and was a PA for *Little Shop of Horrors* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Additionally, he was the Production Coordinator for the “What If?” Music Video written by Anna Leonard. He is beyond grateful to be with The Conciliation Lab creating art that sparks conversation, and he hopes you enjoy the show.

**SPECIAL THANKS**
Diversity Richmond, Diane L. Dodson, Gabriel Beard, Brian Johnson, Kathy Kreutzer, Ellen Rathbun, Quinlan Boyle, Ginnie Willard, Bruce Rennie, Andrew Huelskoetter, and Virginia Repertory Theatre

**The Conciliation Lab**
We create transformative experiences through the power of story.
*Learn more at TheConciliationLab.org*
The Basement is located at 300 East Broad Street, Richmond VA 23219