HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE
by Paula Vogel | directed by Chelsea Burke
March 11 - 26 at The Basement

A wildly funny, surprising, and devastating tale of survival as seen through the lens of a troubling relationship between a young girl and an older man. HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE is the story of a woman who learns the rules of the road and life from behind the wheel.

Winner of the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

THE CAST
Lil Bit.............................Juliana Caycedo
Peck......................................Jeffrey Cole
Female Greek Chorus..........Bianca Bryan
Male Greek Chorus..............Mahlon Raoufi
Teenage Greek Chorus...........Maggie Bavolack

THE TEAM
Direction: Chelsea Burke
Scenic Design: Alyssa Sutherland
Projection Design: Dasia Gregg
Lighting Design: Deryn A. Gabor
Costume Design: Maggie McGrann
Sound Design: Candace Hudert
Properties Design: Kathy Kreutzer
Set Construction: Chris Foote
Scenic Painters: Faith Carlson, Alyssa Sutherland
Assistant Lighting Design: Dakota Carter
Assistant Stage Management: Leica Long
Associate Direction: Nadia Harika
Dramaturgy & Intimacy Direction: Stephanie “Tippi” Hart
Production Stage Management: Crimson Piazza
THE SCHEDULE
Friday, March 11 at 8pm - Preview
Saturday, March 12 at 8pm - Opening Night
Thursday, March 17 at 8pm - Student Night
Friday, March 18 at 8pm
Saturday, March 19 at 8pm
Sunday, March 20 at 3pm - Matinee
Tuesday, March 22 at 8pm - Community Partner Night
Friday, March 25 at 8pm
Saturday, March 26 at 8pm - Closing Night

THE TICKETS
$35 - General Admission
$25 - Senior (65+) / Industry
$15 - Teachers & Students

*PROOF OF VACCINATION / 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 Basement is located at 300 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219

Learn more at TheConciliationLab.org

[Photography by Destiny Martinez Media]
THE CAST

JULIANA CAYCEDO (she/her; Lil Bit) is a performer, writer, and student. Favorite stage credits include An Octoroon (Zoe; TheatreLAB), Between Riverside And Crazy (Lulu; Cadence Theatre Company), and Cabaret (Sally Bowles; Dickinson Theater, Charlottesville, VA). Next, Juliana will be appearing in the rescheduled production of Everybody at Cadence Theatre Company in June of this summer. Juliana is also the lead vocalist for the hardcore punk band Haircut. Thank you to Deejay and Chelsea for the opportunity to play such an iconic role in such a beautiful play. Infinite love to the cast, creative team, and our audiences.

JEFFREY COLE (he/him; Peck) has been active as an actor, director, producer, and educator in the Richmond community since 2006. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Education and Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Pedagogy degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University. As an actor, he has been nominated for Best Actor by the Richmond Theatre Critics Circle for his work in The Crucible for Sycamore Rouge and Wittenberg for Henley Street Theatre/Richmond Shakespeare. Previous directing credits include The (24 Hour) Bald Soprano, Oblivion, Our Town, and Picasso at the Lapin Agile. Previous acting credits include Odysseus (The Odyssey); McMurphy (One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest); Romeo; Hamlet; Iago; Doug (Design For Living), and The Performer in the solo The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey. By day, Jeffrey works as an English teacher at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center.

BIANCA BRYAN (she/her; Female Greek Chorus) is thrilled to be back on a stage! Local Theater Highlights: Urinetown (Lockstock; Richmond Theatre Critics Circle Award for Best Actress in a Musical), Taming Of The Shrew (Petruchio; RTCC Best Actress Nomination), Sweeney Todd (Mrs. Lovett; RTCC Best Actress Nomination), Wings (Emily; RTCC Best Actress in a Musical), Hedwig and the Angry Inch (Yitzhak; RTCC Best Supporting Actress Nomination), Grounded (The Pilot; RTCC Best Actress Nomination), Assassins (Sarah Jane Moore; RTCC Best Supporting Actress Nomination), Caroline or Change (Rose; RTCC Best Supporting Actress Nomination), The Clean House (Matilde; RTCC Best Actress Nomination). On TV, she hosts Real Virginia Saturday mornings on FOX. You also can hear her daily as ‘the voice’ for VPM radio (88.9 & 107.3), and during baseball season as the Flying Squirrels PA Announcer! Next up: Photograph 51 reading with The New Theatre on March 24th. Brooklyn College (MFA), Manhattan School of Music (BM). Love to my faves. IG: @voiceoverva / www.biancabryan.com

MAHLOM RAOUFI (he/they; Male Greek Chorus) is thrilled to be back in the Richmond theater community working with The Conciliation Lab for the second time this year following his performance in Get Up, Stand Up: The Other Part of the Dream directed by Dr. Tawnya Pettiford-Wates. Mahlon is a recent transplant from Brooklyn, NY where he worked on multiple projects such as The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, Gotham, and an original piece called Babel by Sevan K. Greene at the LaGuardia Performing Arts Center. His Richmond credits include: Cabaret (Richmond Triangle Players; Richmond Theatre Critics Circle Nominee for Best Musical), Seven Brides For Seven Brothers (Firehouse Theatre; RTCC Nomination for Best Supporting Actor in a Musical), and bare: a pop opera (Richmond Triangle Players; RTCC Winner for Best Musical). Mahlon is dedicating his performance to his late Grandmother, Akram Rezaie Naraghi.

MAGGIE BAVOLACK (she/her; Teenage Greek Chorus) is a Richmond-based actor and performer. Some of her favorite credits include It’s A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play (Lana Sherwood; Virginia Repertory Theatre), The Revolutionists (Marie Antoinette; TheatreLAB; Richmond Theatre Critics Circle Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Play), Taming Of The Shrew (Gremio; Quill Theatre), Crimes of the Heart (Chick Boyle; Virginia Rep), Lysistrata (Kleonike; Quill Theatre; RTCC Nominee for Best Supporting Actress in a Play) and Riding the Bull (Liza, TheatreLAB; Richmond Theatre Critics Circle Award for Best Actress in a Play). When not on stage, you can find her crafting the best daily vibes on Instagram (@maggersyeah).
THE TEAM

CHELSEA BURKE (she/her; Direction) is a theatre artist originally from Cleveland, Ohio. Favorite directing credits include The Revolutionists (Richmond Theatre Critics Circle Award Nominee for Best Play), Grand Concourse (RTCC Awards for Best Play and Best Director of a Play), Level 4 (World Premiere), The Last Five Years, When Last We Flew (TheatreLAB); It’s A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play (Virginia Repertory Theatre); Molly House (World Premiere), Girlfriend, Hand Grenades (Richmond Triangle Players); The Taming of the Shrew (RTCC Nominee Best Direction, Quill Theatre); I and You (Theatre VCU); Dido and Aeneas (Capital Opera Richmond); The Verge (World Premiere, Firehouse Theatre); and In Love and Warcraft (Assistant Direction, Kennedy Center MFA Workshop). Chelsea is currently co-directing her first feature-length movie, Shanidar, to be released next year.

ALYSSA SUTHERLAND (she/her; Scenic Design) is thrilled to be working on her first Richmond theatre production at The Conciliation Lab. This past fall she graduated with her BFA in Scenic Design from VCUarts Theatre. Recent credits include Scenic Designer for Men on Boats at VCU and Director of A Dream Play with VCU’s student run Shafer Alliance Laboratory Theatre (SALT). She would like to send buckets of loving gratitude to her family for their support & the production team for being lovely collaborators. You can keep up with Alyssa’s work at @alyssasutherland.design on Instagram & sutherlandscenic.com.

DASIA GREGG (she/her; Projection Design) is based in Richmond, VA, graduating from TheatreVCU in 2018 with a BFA in Theatre and concentration in Scenic Design. Some favorite credits include Projection Designer for Pipeline (Virginia Repertory Theatre), Scenic/Projection Designer for Level 4 (TheatreLAB), and Associate Projection Designer for LIVE ART: Family (SPARC). She is truly excited to be working with The Conciliation Lab again!

DERYN A. GABOR (she/her; Lighting Design) has had the pleasure of working as Lighting Designer on The Conciliation Lab’s How I Learned To Drive and Associate Lighting Designer on The Revolutionists. Currently, she is the Lighting Designer at the CM Performing Arts Center, designing We Will Rock You, Cinderella, Holiday Inn, Beauty and the Beast, Beehive, Man of La Mancha, and The Drowsy Chaperone. Her other credits include Lighting Designer on The Santa Closet and Assistant Lighting Designer on The Cake at Richmond Triangle Players, and Assistant Lighting Designer on Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Cinderella at Virginia Repertory Theatre. Her other design credits include Ada and the Engine, God of Carnage, Persephone, and Venus in Fur at Shafer Alliance Laboratory Theatre. She would like to express her gratitude for the wonderful production team. She would especially like to thank Asst. Lighting Designer, Dakota Carter, for his hard work.

DAKOTA CARTER (he/him; Assistant Lighting Design) is a Richmond-based lighting designer who studies lighting design at VCU. This is his first show back since Covid-19 began as well as his first time working at The Basement. When not in the theatre, he is usually found at concerts assisting local bands with putting on shows or taking his turtle to Belle Isle.

MAGGIE McGRANN (she/her; Costume Design) is a freelance costume designer currently residing in Richmond, VA. She holds an MFA in Costume Design from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA as well as a BA from the University of Richmond where she studied Theatre & English. Previous work with The Conciliation Lab (formerly TheatreLAB) includes Speech & Debate, Exquisite Corpse, The Altruists, and Alice: a new musical. Maggie believes there is no wrong way to have a body; she prioritizes emotional management and emotional intelligence as a cornerstone of her anti-racist artistic ethos. Her primary experience is in devising, new script development, and performance; her propensity for dramaturgical script analysis makes her a valuable collaborator in the "new work" space. She is honored to be on the team for this particular project, and hopes everyone is carrying this world lightly.
CANDACE HUDERT (all pronouns; Sound Design) is so happy to be joining The Conciliation Lab for their premiere season. He is a Richmond native with a degree in Directing from Sarah Lawrence College and he has trained at the O’Neill’s National Theater Institute and at Accademia dell’Arte in Arezzo, Italy. Her sound design credits include Stonewallin, Acute Exposure, Vincent River, and The Pink Unicorn at Richmond Triangle Players. In addition to their theatre work, they make video games, including Ranked Choice Dating and Professor Quackerton in: The Locked Birdhouse. Thank you to TCL for inviting me on for this production and please enjoy the show! candacehuderttheatre.carrd.co

KATHY KREUTZER (she/her; Properties Design) is a longtime supporter of Richmond theatre and thrilled to join this amazingly talented group to support this production. In addition to her actual job supporting faculty at VCU School of Medicine, she performs with the Richmond Concert Band and the VCU Health Orchestra. Thanks to my wonderful family and friends for their support.

CHRIS FOOTE (he/they; Set Construction) 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, Klytmenestra, 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, Straight White Men, Bad Jews (TheatreLAB); and Stupid F*#%ing Bird (Quill Theatre).

LEICA LONG (she/her; Assistant Stage Management) is a senior at VCUarts where she is pursuing a BFA in Theatre Stage Management. Leica’s PSM credits include Men on Boats (VCU), You Have The Right to Remain Dead, and Bob: A Life in Five Acts. She also worked as an ASM on Spring Awakening (VCU), and You Got Older, and was a PA for Something Wonderful (VCU.) She is currently the Production Manager for VCU S.A.L.T.

NADIA HARIKA (she/her; Associate Direction) is a musical theatre performer turned psychology student currently working in psychological research at VCU. She is applying for graduate school with the goal of specializing in mental health care for actors and other artists. This is Nadia’s first associate director role! Favorite credits include - RVA: Mimi (RENT; Firehouse Theatre Project); DC: Vanessa (In The Heights; Toby’s Dinner Theatre) and Dawn (The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas; Signature Theatre).

STEPHANIE “TIPPI” HART (she/her; Dramaturgy & Intimacy Direction) is originally from Louisiana where she got her Bachelors and Masters in Theatre/Performance from Louisiana Tech University. While at Tech, Tippi discovered her love of Stage Combat. After receiving her Masters, she moved to Tempe, AZ to pursue her Doctorate in Theatre and Performance of the Americas at Arizona State University. While there she served as director and choreographer at Mesa Encore Theatre (LoneStar/Laundry and Bourbon, Legally Blonde, Into the Woods, Reefer Madness) and as Assistant Artistic Director for CaZo Dance Theatre. She is working on her dissertation which lives at the intersection of theatre, psychology, and well-being. Her research on Emotional Dramaturgy grew out of her work as a fight and intimacy director. She is very thankful for the cast and crew of How I Learned to Drive for allowing her to be part of the beautiful process of bringing this show to life.

CRIMSON PIAZZA (he/him; Production Stage Management) is very excited to continue his Residency with TCL! Crimson is a graduate from VCUarts: Theatre where he got his BFA in Stage Management. Crimson’s other PSM credits include The Niceties, Straight White Men (The Conciliation Lab), Chanteuse: A Survival Musical (Richmond Triangle Players), 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, and Something Wonderful, and was a PA for Little Shop of Horrors and The Two Gentlemen of Verona. Additionally, he also was the Production Coordinator for the “What If?” Music Video written by Anna Leonard. He hopes you enjoy the show.

DEEJAY GRAY (he/she/they; Co-Artistic Director) 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 Direction 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.

CONTENT WARNING
Please be advised, this performance contains disturbing content. Including: Sexual grooming, Sexual assault, Alcohol and drug abuse, Child Abuse, and Depictions of pornography. How I Learned To Drive is intended for mature audiences, and may not be suitable for all ages.

National Sexual Assault Hotline number 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

SPECIAL THANKS
Katy McGrann, Virginia Repertory Theatre, and Steve Berardi

VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VALENTINE’S DAY DONORS
Matthew Bauserman, Daniel & Trudy Bavolack, Linda Beringer, David Bibb, Amy Blondell, Ellen & Orin Brown, Christi Carver, Phil & Diana Campbell, Alicia Christy, Donna E. Coghill, Alex & Sunday Cozzi, Jim Falks, Diane Harris, Timothy Herrmann, Robin & Thomas Hillman, Jennifer & Paul Hundley, Rachel & Adam Landsee, Rhonda Lewis, Colleen Maitland, Paul Minter & Ann Mathieu, Benjamin & Suzette McIlwaine, Ellen O’Kane Motley, Lawrence & Christine Nuckols, Catherine O’Brion, Kate Poms, Laurie Potteiger, CB & MG Scalin, Emily Michel & Joe Schumacher, Susan Snodgrass, Dan Stackhouse, Anne Stratton, Nancy Tabor, Patricia Valentine, and David & Janet Whitley

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